AN

ESSAY

ON

HOSPITALS.

OR,

SUCCINCT DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

SITUATION, CONSTRUCTION, & ADMINISTRATION

OF

COUNTRY HOSPITALS.

WITH

AN APPENDIX, wherein the Preſent Scheme for eſtabliſhing Public County Hoſpitals in IRELAND, is impartially conſidered.

By EDWARD FOSTER, M. D.

Bleſſed is he that conſidereth the Poor; the Lord will deliver him in the Time of Trouble.—— PSAL. XLI. 1.

I was naked, and ye clothed me; I was Sick, and ye viſited me.—— S. MATH. CHAP. XXV. 36.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

BY W. G. JONES, IN SUFFOLK-STREET,

M,DCC,LXVIII.

To

Robert Clements Esqre

Representative in Parliament

of the County Donegal

From his Obed.t Ser.t

The

Author

TO

CHARLES LUCAS, Eſq; M.D.

Repreſentative in Parliament of the City of DUBLIN.

SIR,

THE ready Acceptance, with which you continue to honour this offering of my Gratitude, becauſe humbly paid in my Country's Service, notwithſtanding it is ſtript of it's former ornamental Language, and apparently juſt excuſes for it's Appearance, and, notwithſtanding

you are ſenſible of all it's Imperfections, may ſerve, tho' preceded by thouſands of ſtronger Proofs, to convince ſuch, (if any ſuch there can be,) as, denying the Evidence of their Senſes, ſhutting their Eyes in open Day, ſee not the Springs of all your Actions; ſee not that the Baſis of your Principles has ever been laid upon the Rock of true Patriotiſm; that the perſevering Tenour of your Conduct could not poſſibly have been ſupported, but by the Heaven-born Spirit of Liberty; and, that Your Free-will Sacrafice, of every Thing dear to you, was only offered, for the nobleſt of Cauſes, your Country's Good. But

" Urit fulgore ſuo, qui prægravat artes
" Infra ſe poſitas; extinctus amabitur idem." *

While

* Q. Horat. Flac. lib. 2. Epiſt. 1. verſ. 13.

While the Luſtre of your Actions dazzels the weak Eyes of moſt Spectators, expect from them only Wonder, an involuntary Praiſe, inſtead of that Gratitude, which, in open Streams, flows from the dilated Hearts of the generous Lovers of their Country. A Gratitude, of which you have oft received the nobleſt Tokens, from the greateſt, and beſt. A Gratitude, which, when the bitter Tongue of Calumny, the venemous Tooth of Envy, the falſe Heart of Hypocriſy, the pilfering Fingers of Detraction, and the pointed Ray of the Green-eyed Monſter Jealouſy, lie humbled in thy peaceful Duſt, will raiſe thee among the Clouds; and will place the ſtraight Line of thy long ſteady Courſe in view, as

the only real Path, by which our future Patriots can aſpire at Honours, like your's, Immortal. For, if, as *Cicero* thinks, (and who can doubt it ?) the health giving Power, above all others, raiſes a Man neareſt to the nature of the Deity; whoſe Claim to this Perfection can equal your's ? The Extent and Succeſs of your Practice, in your Profeſſion, ſets you amongſt the firſt of Candidates, and the many ſalutiferous Laws, for which the Body Natural, as well as the Body Politic, ſtands indebted to you, command the Palm, an Eaſy Prize. But,

" Cum tot ſuſtineas & tanta negotia———
———" in publica commoda peccem,
" Si longo ſermone morer tua tempora."—— *

Un-

* Q. Horat. Flac. lib. 2. Epiſt. 1. verſ. 1.

Unwilling to encroach upon your Time, ſo precious to your Family, and to your Friends, to the Sick, and to the Healthy, but above all, to your Country. Senſible of my Inability to draw the lively Portrait of your Merit, in that unſhaded Light it juſtly deſerves, permit me to expreſs the real Pleaſure I have felt, at viewing, and reviewing it, in every Attitude your Conduct or my fond Imagination have preſented it to my Mind's Eye. A Pleaſure, which an honeſt Heart alone can feel, and which every honeſt Heart muſt feel.

Permit me to intreat, not your indulgent Peruſal of my lame Eſſay, nor a friendly Protection of it's Weakneſs, for theſe, from your experienced Candor, I am ſure of, but

an

an honourable Support of it's Cauſe: a Cauſe as worthy the Conſideration of the greateſt, the wiſeſt, and the beſt, as Juſtice, Religion, Humanity, and good Policy can make it, that it may, like every other Scheme for the Welfare of our Country, or the Happineſs of it's Inhabitants, continue to find a Father in you: And, that LUCAS and LIBERTY may ever remain ſynonymous Words, is the ſincere Wiſh of,

SIR,

With Reſpect for your honourable Station, and Eſteem for the Abilities, which juſtly entitle you to it,

Your Faithful, Obliged,

and obedient Servant,

EDW. FOSTER.

Dub. Feb. 1768.

THE PREFACE.

THE Wiſdom and Clemency of the Legiſlature was ſignally interpoſed for preſerving the Health and Lives of the lower Claſs of the Subjects, by erecting and eſtabliſhing Hoſpitals or Infirmaries in the different Counties of this Kingdom, by an Act of Parliament, paſſed in the ſixth Year of his preſent Majeſty's auſpicious Reign.

AT this Time, I was engaged in the Courſe of my Studies, in the Univerſity of Edingburgh. But, having Occaſion to reviſit my native Country the ſucceeding Summer, I had Opportunities of ſeeing the Preparations making for theſe charitable Foundations, in different Parts of the Country.

IT was with unſpeakable Concern, I obſerved theſe truly noble and beneficent Purpoſes likely to be foiled or fruſtrated, by the Ignorance or Prejudice of thoſe, intruſted to conduct this national Charity.

THIS

THIS naturally led me to a further Conſideration of this great and important Inſtitution. And when I had maturely weighed the Subject, I committed my Thoughts to Writing, without any View of publiſhing them, further than by imparting them to ſome public ſpirited Country Gentlemen.

BUT, when I returned to the Univerſity, for the further Proſecution of my Studies, to the obtaining my Degrees in my Profeſſion, and found by the College Courſe, that every Candidate for the Doctor's Degree was obliged to pub-

liſh and ſuſtain a Theſis or Diſſertation upon ſome intereſting Phyſical Subject; I choſe an Essay on Hospitals for mine; with intent to bring the Matter to the moſt proper Teſt; for, I reſolved, if my little Tract might have the good Fortune to obtain the Sanction of the learned Profeſſors of Phyſic in that celebrated Univerſity, to let it ſee the Light, upon my Return to my native Country; and if it ſhould not obtain that Honour, to let it fall into Oblivion, among other like juvenile Performances.

THOUGH much ſtinted in Time, I ventured to offer my little Tract and ſubmit it to Judges, as competent, and as accurate, perhaps, as any now known in any School of Phyſic in Europe.

IT might appear vain in me to pronounce the Judgement, paſſed by theſe great Men, upon this little Tract. But, I muſt ſay, in my own Juſtification, that it was ſo favourable, and afterwards ſo far ſeconded by that of ſome Gentlemen of great Honour and Eminence in the Profeſſion in this City, that I thought myſelf called

called upon to offer it in this Dreſs and Form to the Public, when the Attention of the Gentlemen of the Country appears to be ſo humanely bent upon carrying the charitable Inſtitutions of Parliament into Execution.

I HOPE the Reader will be candid enough to impute this Publication to the real and true Motive, and accept it, as it is intended.

THERE is no Man further than I am from approving the general Itch for Scribbling, or the trite Cuſtom of young Practitioner's obtruding

truding their Writings upon the Public, to gain themſelves ſome Fame, before they have had Time and Experience to bring their Works to Maturity. I ſhould have choſen the Poet's wiſe Adviſe,

--- nonum præmatur in annum,

to have kept my Piece by me, till by Time and Obſervation, I ſhould render it complete.

BUT, as none of the many abler Hands have thought fit to give us any Thing upon this much wanted Subject; I thought it incumbent upon me to offer my Mite, the

the firſt Fruits of my Studies, to the Service of the Public, in order to rectify the many groſs Miſtakes and Abuſes, already committed in the Founding and Building of Hoſpitals, and to prevent the like bad Conduct in the future.

IN proſecuting this Deſign, I have aſſiduouſly avoided abſtruſe technical Words, or Terms of Art, and even omitted, as much as poſſible, all medical Diſquiſitions and Reaſonings, and have every where endeavoured to make the whole plain and familiar, and to bring it within the Conception and Judgement of ſuch Members

of

of the Legiſlature and Gentlemen of the Country, as are not to be ſuppoſed converſant in phyſical Matters.

WITH this Intent, as well as to keep the Tract within the narroweſt Bounds, I have even omitted ſome material Parts of the Work; to wit, a Table of Diet, Directions for furniſhing the Phyſic Garden and the Diſpenſary, as well as the Surgery. But, if this ſhould not be done by ſome abler Hand, by the Time the Hoſpitals are reformed, or eſtabliſhed upon the Plan, I offer, I ſhall, perhaps, take ſome future Opportunity of com-

compleating this little Work with ſuch Diſquiſitions, Obſervations and Directions.

As I have choſen to be as conciſe and explicit as poſſible, I judged that ſtudied Phraſes and Flouriſhes of Rhetoric could but ill ſuit a Performance of this kind. Therefore have I always endeavoured to lay down intereſting Facts and Poſitions in artleſs Truth and Simplicity.

AN ESSAY ON HOSPITALS.

SECT. I.

CHAP. I.

AS no one can, with certainty, demonſtrate the Antiquity of Hoſpitals, and as every one muſt be fully convinced of their Utility, to aſcertain the one, would be impoſſible, and to expatiate upon the other, muſt be ſuperfluous.

An orderly Diſtribution of his Subject, is perhaps as advantageous to an Author, in com-

poſing, or on the critical Day of his Judgement, as the proper Diviſion of an Army is to it's General, in diſpoſing it for Battle, or in the perilous Hour of Attack.

---- " tantum ſeries juncturaque pollet;
" Tantum de medio ſumtis accedit honoris. *(a)*

" Such Grace can Order and Connexion give;
" Such Beauties common Subjects may receive."
FRANC.

I SHALL therefore, for the Sake of SYSTEM, throw my Thoughts, upon this Subject of Hoſpitals, into the following Arrangement:

I SHALL conſider,

1ſt. THEIR SITUATION;

2dly. THEIR CONSTRUCTION, and APPURTENANCES; and

3dly. THEIR ADMINISTRATION.

I SHALL

(a) Horat. de Art. Poet. verſ. 242.

I SHALL again ſubdivide theſe general Heads, into their reſpective Branches, as they occur, and as any Elucidation may be required from Order.

SECT. I.

CHAP. II.

OUR truſty, though often woeful Miſtreſs, Experience, has taught us, that every Situation does not agree with any Number of People confined together, even in Health. What care then ſhould we take, in chuſing one proper for the Sick? "Unleſs" as Celſus ſays, "People would have us believe, that "healthy Men ſhould obſerve the Temper of "the Air, and the Seaſon of the Year, and "that the Sick do not need to take that Care, "to whom all Precaution is ſo much the "more neceſſary, as an infirm State of Health "is the more liable to receive Injury." *(a)* A minute Enquiry ſhould therefore be made, by

(a) A. Cornel. Celſ. Præfat. ſub fin.

proper Judges, into the Nature of any Place, upon which an Hoſpital is deſigned to be built; that the moſt proper, if not perfectly good, may always be preferred to the more improper. Many Circumſtances are to be taken into Conſideration, in this Enquiry; but as a Knowledge of the Atmoſphere, or Air of the Place, will very evidently, and ſufficiently indicate the good or bad Effects to be expected, I ſhall only attempt to point out thoſe ſenſible Qualities of the Air, which are either to be deſired, or avoided; with the Places and Cauſes, which generally give riſe to ſuch Qualities. I ſhould here, did I write for the Philoſopher only, enter into a Diſcuſſion of the Nature and Properties of Air; and, if for the Phyſician, into an Explanation of it's Effects, upon inanimate as well as animate Bodies, &c. But, I ſhall leave theſe curious and uſeful Points, to abler Pens, and only obſerve that,

THE ſenſible Qualities of Air, neceſſary to the Preſervation of Health, and conſequently to it's Reſtauration, are,

PURI-

PURITY,

DRYNESS, and

TEMPERATURE:

And that their Oppoſites, to wit;

IMPURITY,

MOISTURE, and

HEAT and COLD, are to be avoided.

By PURITY, I not only mean that State of the Air, which is compatible with, and neceſſary to Life and Flame, but ſuch an abſolute Privation of all heterogeneous Matter in it, as renders it entirely ſalutary. The Air may, perhaps, be called an univerſal Menſtruum, or has a Property of diſſolving a certain Quantity of all Bodies thrown into it, in apt Circumſtances; if however it be doubted, whether it is endued with this Power, it certainly has that of diſſipating them, that is, of intimately blending and mixing them with ſuch large Por-

tions of the vaſt Atmoſphere, as prevent any conſiderable Quantity of them, from being applied to the human Body, at once. In this Caſe, the Air may be called PURE; but when, from any Cauſes, the Air is replete with Particles of Subſtances foreign to it's Nature, it may be ſaid to be IMPURE.

BY DRYNESS of the Air, I only mean the Abſence of diffuſed Water in it. All Air, within our Reach, contains more or leſs, generally a conſiderable Quantity, of Water, in a diſſolved State; for it has been found by Philoſophers, that Air has the Quality of a Menſtruum, with reſpect to Water, as truly as Water has with reſpect to Salts: And like this too, it can diſſolve only a limited Quantity, but being ſaturated, it has the Power of holding, ſuſpended in it, great Quantities of Water, in a diffuſed State, which it readily gives to all Bodies dryer than itſelf, and is thus abſorbed by the human Body, when that is in an inſorbent State; when this therefore, is the Caſe, I call the Air MOIST; when the Water is only diſſolved, I call it DRY.

BY

BY TEMPERATURE, I mean that Degree of Heat in the Air, which is moſt pleaſing, and agreeable to the human Body. This has been found to be the ſixty-ſecond Degree of Fahrenheit's Thermometer, which continued for ſome Time, if the Body is in it's natural State, feels neither hot, nor cold; any Degree therefore above that may be called HOT, and below it, COLD, with reſpect to the human Body, in a natural State; for theſe are only relative Qualities, and not abſolute; the latter being variouſly modified by the former, and very difficultly, if at all, determinable. Thus the human Body, generating in itſelf a Degree of Heat, equal to 96″. of Fahrenheit, will be rendered hotter, by a Change of the Temperature of the Air, from 60″ to 62″ the increaſed Heat of the Air allowing leſs of the generated Heat of the Body, to be received into the Air, it will be accumulated about it, and cauſe that diſagreeable Senſation, we call Heat. On the contrary, the Senſation, we expreſs by Cold, is occaſioned by the change of Temperature, from higher to lower; for

poſe a human Body of any Degree of Heat, a Succeſſion of Air, from 90″ to 80″, will at firſt ſeem cold to it, though, if continued, it will increaſe the Heat of the Body beyond it's natural Degree; thus Heat and Cold are alſo relative, with reſpect to each other.

SECT. I.

CHAP. III.

THAT a DRY AIR is neceſſary to the proper Situation of an Hoſpital, is as certain as the Opinion of Sir John Pringle, that a too dry Air cannot be found in any habitable Part of the Globe; for the neceſſary Water, and various Trees, Plants, Vegetables, &c. with which we are ſurrounded, in the hotteſt Seaſons, and in the hotteſt Countries, afford ſuch copious Exhalations of Moiſture, as render it ſufficiently healthy in that Reſpect; or in his own Words, "As long as "there are any Vegetables to perſpire, the Air "will ſcarce ever want Humidity ſufficient for "Health;

" Health; ſo that perhaps it is in the ſandy " Deſarts only we can learn what Diſtempers " are incident to Men breathing in too dry an " Atmoſphere." *(a)* Now this being the Caſe, in the warmeſt Countries, and Seaſons, how moiſt muſt our Air be, in theſe Northern Climates, where there are ſo many Sources of original Humidity? We are therefore, (as we have but a negative Choice) to avoid the one, that we may as near as poſſible arrive at the other. This we do, by building our Hoſpitals,

ON SLANTING PLACES. Becauſe the Waters which fall upon ſuch are ſoon drained off.

PLACES OF A MODERATE HEIGHT. Theſe are neither expoſed to ſtagnant Waters, nor attracted Clouds, and generally have a free Circulation of Air, without which, (I may, once for all, ſay,) no Place can be dry, or healthy; for it is certain, that all the habitable Parts of this Globe do emit, not only ſo much Moiſture, as, keeps them from being too dry, but

(a) Pring. Obſerv. on Diſeaſes of the Army, Part. II. chapt. II. § 2.

but as would ſoon render them very dangerous, nay abſolutely fatal, even by it's Quantity, not to mention it's Quality, if it were not diſſipated, by the Winds, through the wide expanded Atmoſphere.

ON PLACES OF A DRY, LOOSE, GRAVELLY SOIL. Which, by quickly abſorbing Moiſture as it falls, prevent it's being re-exhaled.

THESE Places affording leaſt Moiſture, their Atmoſphere muſt of courſe be the drieſt; they are therefore the moſt eligible for a Situation. I ſhall next point out thoſe Places, where we are to expect the dampeſt Air, from the vaſt Quantities of Moiſture, they muſt exhale, and a Vicinity to them therefore ought diligently to be avoided.

THESE are MOUNTAINS. Exhaled Vapours floating in the Air, and condenſing into Clouds, we ſee daily intercepted or attracted by the Tops of Mountains, which, with the adjacent Regions, are ſoon after inveloped in Fogs, or drenched in Rain.

PLAINS,

PLAINS AND VALLIES. Here all the uniting highland Waters tending downwards, keep up a conſtant Supply of Moiſture, which being raiſed into the Air, either by the tranſmitting Powers of Vegetables, or evaporating Force of Heat, wants the Renovation of freſh Air to diſperſe it, and is thus accumulated to vaſt Quantities. This happens the more evidently, if the Soil be tough, or what we call clayey, as it hinders the Water from ſoaking through it.

LARGE RIVERS AND LAKES. The frequent evening, night, and morning cloudy Vapours, which we ſee hovering over theſe, eſpecially in warm Weather, ought to warn us of the Danger of ſuch treacherous Neighbours.

MARSHES AND FENS. Not to mention here any Impurities ariſing from theſe, they are more dangerous than even the former, from the Quantity of Moiſture they exhale, their Surfaces being prodigiouſly enlarged, by the Inequalities of the various vegetating Subſtances,

ces, with which they are replete. The ſame may be ſaid of,

OVERFLOWED GROUNDS. From which, the Waters being drained, their unequal Surfaces are left covered with a wet, ſlimy Filth, which, beſides the Inquinations to be hereafter mentioned, muſt afford vaſt Quantities of ſimple Moiſture.

WOODS. Beſides the Stagnation, which theſe neceſſarily occaſion, in the Circulation of the Air, their greatly ampliated Surfaces afford a conſtant Supply of Humidity, and their ſunk, intertwining Roots draw up the very humid Principle of the Earth, to be emitted by the innumerable Pores of their Barks and Leaves; whilſt their lofty Summits, towering in the Air, like Mountains, attract it's Vapours, and condenſing them into Showers, pour them again upon themſelves, or the adjacent Regions; hence, the ENGLISH have wiſely, and almoſt univerſally, diveſted their Towns and Villages of the greateſt Part of their old Plantations, and the AMERICANS, by fatal Experi-

Experience, too well know the dangerous Inconveniencies of a Vicinity to large Tracts of Wood.

SEAS AND OCEANS. Theſe inexhauſtible Funds of Moiſture, conſtantly furniſhing freſh Supplies to the Air, and this conveying them over the maritime Coaſts, they are, by the firſt natural Cauſe, condenſed and precipitated, in vaſt Quantities, on the Heads of ther miſerable Neighbours; and more eſpecially ſo, if any Mountains happen ſo near as to intercept their Courſe. For this Reaſon, were I obliged to bring my Situation near them, I would always chuſe to have, at ſome Diſtance, the Interpoſition of a friendly Mountain.

FROM what has been ſaid, in this Chapter, I may make this ſhort concluſive Recapitulation.

TO OBTAIN a dry Situation, we ſhould, as near as poſſible, chuſe a ſlanting Ground; of a moderate Height; of a light, dry, gravelly Soil; as far diſtant, as poſſible, from Mountains;

tains; Vallies, and Plains; large Rivers, and Lakes; Marſhes, and Fens; flooded Lands; Woods; Seas, and Oceans. But if Neceſſity ſhould any where oblige us to build near Woods or Mountains, we ſhould chuſe the Southern Side of them; as we ſhould, under the like Neceſſity, prefer the Northern Side of Rivers; Lakes, &c.

SECT. I.

CHAP IV.

THE TEMPERATURE of the Air varying but little within a Degree, or Space of ſixty Miles, greatly confines us in our Choice, though it be materially neceſſary to the Preſervation and Reſtauration of Health; yet, as we cannot preſume to command the Weather, or regulate the Seaſons, we muſt depend upon the proper Conſtruction of our HOSPITALS, hereafter to be mentioned, to defend them from the inclement Viciſ-

Viciſſitudes, and Extremes of the Air; and the only Rules I ſhall lay down are,

1. TO AVOID THE EXTREMES OF HEAT:

ALL SANDY OR ROCKY PLACES ought to be avoided. For, in Summer, the Rays are reflected from theſe, with double Violence, which renders them diſagreeable, as well as unhealthful, to all Perſons condemned to ſuffer them.

FOR this Reaſon alſo, we ought to avoid ſurrounding our Hoſpitals, unleſs at a conſiderable Diſtance, with STONE AND LIME, OR BRICK WALLS, &c. which, eſpecially if high, tho' they may be uſeful in Winter, muſt be very pernicious in Summer, not only by reflecting the Rays of the Sun, but by preventing the free Circulation of the Air.

DEEP VALLIES ought alſo to be avoided, as they have much the ſame Effects of the former.

2. To

2. TO AVOID THE EXTREMES OF COLD,

WE have only this Precaution, that, as the NORTH WINDS are the ſevereſt, and coldeſt, we are to ſcreen ourſelves from them, by the Interpoſition of ſome riſing Ground, or a few Hedge Rows of Trees, at a convenient Diſtance.

FROM the little I have ſaid on this Head, I ſhall make this ſhort Recapitulation:

HOSPITALS ought to be built on the Southern Sides of ſmall Hills, with a few Trees to break the violence of the Winds, avoiding ſandy, or rocky Places, Vallies, and too cloſe an Incloſure with Stone, or Brick Walls.

SECT.

SECT. I.

CHAP. V.

AS MUCH as the Temperature of the Air is out of our Power to command, it's Purity is almoſt within our Reach: For the Cold, and conſtant Winds, of theſe Northern Countries, certainly render us an Equivalent for their Inconveniencies, by always keeping our Air tolerably free from Impurities, at leaſt, the Air, at any conſiderable Diſtance from the original Sources of Contamination. As it is therefore eaſily in our Power, and as it is of real Conſequence, we ought, as much as poſſible, to chuſe a pure, and to avoid an impure Air. The former we find in

OPEN, BARE PLACES, CONSIDERABLY HIGH. The conſtant Renovation of the Air in theſe Places prevents almoſt all the bad Effects of Impurity: We, however, ought by no Means to truſt this, but be ſure to avoid

TOWNS. The Sources of Impurity here are innumerable, and daily Experience ſhews us how prejudicial they are to the Sound, and Healthy; how much more ſo muſt they be to the Infirm and Convaleſcent? We are therefore not only to avoid a Proximity to them, but, as far as Circumſtances will admit, to all their conſequent Filth and Naſtineſs, which we ſee ſurrounding their Suburbs in Heaps, to their deleterious Smokes, noxious Vapours, and foul Air, &c. by ſituating our Hoſpitals at a conſiderable Diſtance from them.

THE Vapours ariſing from

SMELTING-HOUSES, LIME-KILNS, BRICK-KILNS, POTTERIES, MANUFACTORIES, where much Fire is uſed, MINES, &c. muſt render their immediate Atmoſphere very pernicious to Health, and are to be carefully avoided: as is alſo a Vicinity to

STAGNATING WATERS, MARSHES, FENS, DITCHES, or FLOODED GROUNDS. Beſides the Reaſons,

Reaſons, before given, theſe muſt cauſe a great Impurity of the Atmoſphere, from the vaſt Quantities of noxious, putrid Effluvia, they muſt emit, from a Corruption of the innumerable Dead, rotting vegetable, and animal Subſtances, with which they are replete; and the Aſcent of which is much aided by the Exhalation of the Moiſture before mentioned: Their Quantities alſo are much increaſed, by their prodigiouſly ampliated Surfaces, through their Inequalities, from both which Reaſons, it is much better to have the Whole pretty deeply covered with Water, than in that State: A Proof of which we have from the NILE, the neighbouring Inhabitants of which, whilſt it deeply overflows the whole adjacent lower ÆGYPT, live healthy, and free from Diſeaſes, but it no ſooner falls within it's Banks, than the flooded Lands being left covered with Slime, and Filth, ſo taint the Air, with their pernicious Exhalations, that numerous putrid and peſtilential Diſeaſes are the ſure Conſequences. For this Reaſon, LANCISI filled up the HADRIAN Ditch with Water from the VATICAN Gardens, when it had, by it's pu-

trid Effluvia, cauſed a Peſtilence, which was thus removed. PISAURUS did the ſame, particularly at ROME. A large Pool without the Walls, in which the Filth of the City had been thrown, for forty Years, growing at length dry, occaſioned a peſtilential Fever, which ſwept off two thouſand in one Year, though it had no ſenſible Effect, whilſt filled with Water, and only four Hundred were computed to die yearly.

I SHOULD not here omit the Corruption, that is produced in the Air, by it's Stagnation, in any Place; for having before ſhewn, that there is no Place without an Exhalation of Moiſture, I may now ſay that Moiſture ſeldom ariſes ſimple, but always carries with it Particles of thoſe Subſtances, from which it proceeds. Theſe now accumulating, ſtagnating, and being favoured by the Heat of the Air, will ſoon run into Putrifaction, and muſt produce the worſt Effects. WOODS, therefore, and VALLIES, as promoting this Stagnation, and Corruption, are carefully to be avoided.

FROM

FROM what has been ſaid, I ſhall make this ſhort Recapitulation:

HOSPITALS ought to be built on open, conſiderably high, dry Places; at a Diſtance from Towns, Smelting Houſes, Lime Kilns, Manufactories wrought by Fire, Mines, corrupted, ſtagnating Waters, foul Ditches, Woods, and Vallies.

As there is no one of theſe, or the Nuiſances mentioned in the two preceding Chapters, that ought not to be carefully avoided, ſo any two of them happening together, ought, for a double Reaſon, to be more diligently rejected: But, when there happens a Complication either of the different Species of the ſame Kind, or, what is much worſe, of all the Kinds, I may with the Poet exclaim,

" Quis cladem illius" coeli, " quis funera fando

 " Explicet,

" Explicet, aut poſſit verbis æquare laborem !" (*a*)

Who can unfold the Ills of ſuch a Sky ?
Or tell the Crowds that by it's Poiſons die ?

(*a*) VIRG. Æneid. Lib. 2, Verſ. 361.

SECT.

SECT. II.

CHAP. I.

A PRUDENT Regard to the recovery of the Sick, as well as to OEconomy, makes a Conſideration of the CONSTRUCTION and APPURTENANCES of Hoſpitals, a juſt Part of this Eſſay.

UNDER this Head, I mean to comprehend,

EXTERNAL APPURTENANCES,

STRUCTURE, and

FURNITURE, or Internal Appurtenances.

THE EXTERNAL APPURTENANCES requiſite to an Hoſpital are a RIVULET, and GARDEN.

THE RIVULET, beſides it's Uſes for domeſtic Purpoſes, by being brought to flow through the

the Hoſpital, may be extremely ſerviceable, in keeping the Cold Bath always ſupplied, and in carrying off the Filth of the Neceſſary Houſe, &c.

THAT A GARDEN is very requiſite, no one can deny, who knows, how neceſſary Exerciſe is, to the cure of moſt Chronic Diſeaſes, or who conſiders how ſalutary a pure, freſh Air muſt prove to People confined,, for any Time, in a bad one. To ſay nothing of the Number of Vegetables neceſſarry for nouriſhment, as well as for Medicinal Uſes of various Kinds. I would therefore have an Acre of Ground at leaſt, about every Hoſpital, laid out in a Garden, with proper Walks, ſome ſtraight, ſome winding, ſome level, and ſome aſcending, to anſwer the various Uſes of the Patients. For the Reaſons before given, I would have it ſurrounded with a Quickſet Hedge, or Pales, in preference to a Stone or Brick Wall: and as Convaleſcents may occupy it moſt, and, as the Deſires of Nature are apt to return with Health, a Diviſion betwixt the Men's, and Women's Walks, may

he

be neceſſary, to prevent any indecent, or immodeſt Behaviour.

SECT. II.

CHAP. II.

THE ſecond Diviſion, or the STRUCTURE of Hoſpials, I ſhall ſub-divide into four Heads, conſidering.

1. THE MATERIALS,

2. THE ORDER OF ARCHITECTURE, or Kind of Houſe;

3. THE POSITION; and,

4. THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE APPARTMENTS.

1ſt. AS TO THE MATERIALS. The Walls ought to be built of Stone and Lime, as from

from the Thickneſs, and Compactneſs, which theſe neceſſarily give them, the Houſe is kept cooler in Summer, and warmer in Winter, than if built with Brick: Theſe alſo are, in moſt Places, too expenſive, but when there is a Neceſſity for uſing them, a trifling Expence ought not to prevent the Walls being made of a ſufficient Thickneſs. Slates, for the above Reaſon, are alſo preferable to Tiles. The Houſe ſhould be well plaiſtered, both internally, and externally, as a farther Defence againſt both Heat and Cold. The Ground Floor ſhould be paved with Flags, to prevent the Exhalation of Moiſture. The Stairs ought to be of hewn Stone, as they are eaſieſt kept clean; and all Sorts of Dirtineſs ought to be avoided in Hoſpitals, as much as poſſible.

2dly, As to the ORDER OF ARCHITECTURE, or kind of Houſe, I ſhall content myſelf with laying down a few plain Rules.

HOSPITALS ought to be ſingle Houſes, with numerous Windows on each Side, oppoſite to each

each other; by which Means a Renovation of freſh Air is in our Power, at any time, in a manner much preferable to any Ventilators: Whereas, were the Houſes double, from the neceſſary Partitions running along their Middles, or were the Windows to be placed all in one of their Sides, this Circulation could not be procured, and the imperfect Aid of Ventilators muſt become neceſſary.

THEIR Height ought not to be above three Stories, as the Vapours and Exhalations ariſing from thoſe, who live on the under Floors, naturally aſcending, and combining with thoſe they meet in their Paſſage, if the Houſes were very high, would make their upper Parts improper for even the Healthy, much more for the Diſeaſed, to breathe in.

FOR the Benefit of a good Air, the Stories ſhould be lofty, as alſo the Windows, and Doors, ample and high. The Propriety of this Caution will be obvious to any one, who has been condemned to ſit, but a ſhort Time, in a low confined Room, any wiſe crouded.

CARE ſhould be taken, to have Chimnies ſo properly interſperſed through the whole Houſe, as by Fires in them, to be ſufficient to keep it's Air of a moderate Degree of Heat. They are alſo requiſite for pumping out, as it were, the foul Air of the Rooms, and ſo inducing a Supply of freſh Air. It is therefore neceſſary to have a Chimney in every Ward, but in large ones two.

THE Addition of large Wings to an Hoſpital is certainly unneceſſary, and hurtful; as a Houſe can be made capacious enough without them, to contain as many Sick as it is ſafe to bring together; and, as they muſt render it's Structure more complicated, and prevent the Acceſs of free Air. It being, however, very difficult, if not impoſſible, to conſtruct a Houſe, where ſo many Conveniencies in the Apartments are requiſite, without them, ſmall Wings may be allowed; or, if it did not render the Building diſagreeable to the Eye, they might be placed in oppoſite Directions, that is, the one pointing to the North, the

the other to the South, which would much alleviate their Inconveniencies, by allowing the Air to get a pretty free Admiſſion to all Parts of the Houſe.

3dly, THE POSITION ought to be, like our Churches, due Eaſt and Weſt; that is, the Fronts to the South, and the Backs to the North, that we may have through the Windows the Advantage of the warm meridian Sun, or of the cold northern Breeze, as either may be differently requiſite.

4thly, WE come to the DISTRIBUTION OF IT'S APARTMENTS. The lower Story, being generally damp, and the Circulation of the Air leſs free through it, I would aſſign to domeſtic Uſes, ſuch as Apartments for the Apothecary, Steward, Governeſs, Servants, &c. The Managers Room, and Admiſſion Room may be likewiſe on this Floor, if it will contain them.

THE two next Stories ought to be laid out in Wards for the Sick. About five diſtinct Apartments,

partments, holding each one Bed, or two, ought to be allotted to every large Ward, that may contain about twenty.

BY the large Wards, we ſave a conſiderble Space of Room in the Houſe, which would be loſt by Partitions; and we procure a much better and healthier Air; whilſt the ſmall are ready to receive Patients labouring under infectious, or very painful Diſeaſes, or thoſe, who may be unable to bear the unavoidable Noiſe and Diſturbance of large Wards.

THE Wards ought to be ſo divided, that the Men's and Women's Parts of the Houſe may be diſtinct, for obvious Reaſons.

THE Wards ſhould alſo be furniſhed with Cloſets, to hold the Cloſe-Stools, Urinals, &c. as the Smell of theſe, if they are kept beſide or under the Beds, muſt be not only diſagreeable, but pernicious to the Sick.

IN the upper Story, that it may be furniſhed with a Sky-light, the Operation Room ſhould

ſhould lie. This may alſo anſwer for a Chapel; and adjoining to it, there ought to be a Repoſitory for the Surgeon's Inſtruments.

THIS Part of the Houſe, however, I would not have immediately under the Roof of the Hoſpital, but cloſely connected to it, leaſt the Cries of the Patient undergoing any Operation, ſhould diſturb the other Sick; and, leaſt the Noiſe and Heat of the Kitchen, the Noiſe of the Apothecary's Shop, the Moiſture, and Noiſe of the Waſh-houſe, the Smell of the Neceſſary-houſe, or contagious Miaſmata from the Dead Room, as it is called, ſhould render them real Obſtacles to the Eaſe and Safety of the Patients, I would have them all under the Roof of the latter; but ſo cloſely joined to the Hoſpital, as to have all the Advantages of being a Part of it. The laſt Apartment ought to be next the Operation Room, that the Dead may be eaſily convey'd into it, to be opened or otherwiſe examined; and, as it ought to be as far diſtant from the Wards as poſſible, that the Patients may not be diſturbed with the neceſſary Noiſe of the Friends

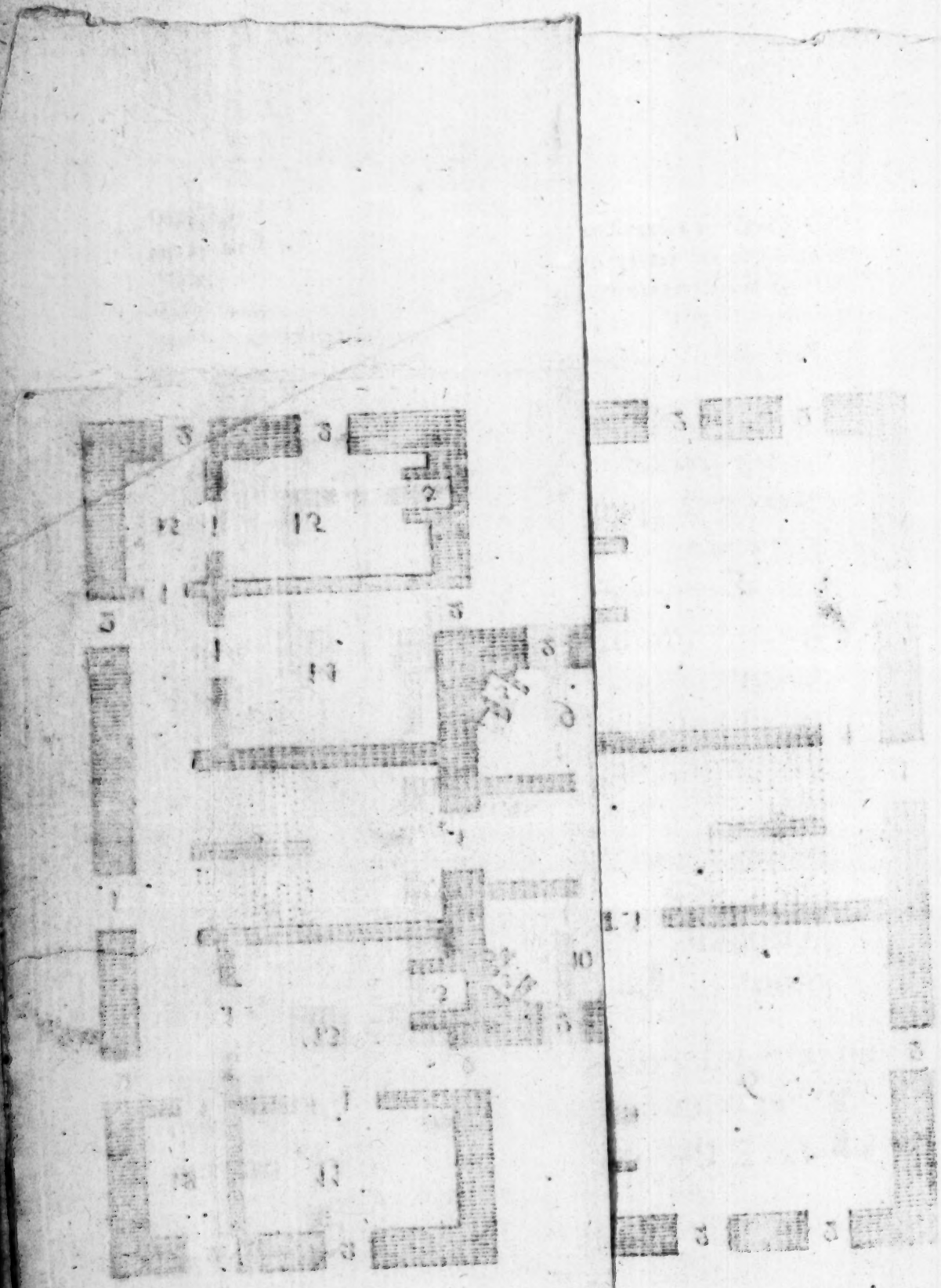
Friends of the Defunct, in doing their laſt Offices; or that the Thoughts of a dead Perſons lying in the ſame Houſe may not produce bad Effects on weak Minds, which is often the Caſe.

As Example goes before Precept, I ſhall attempt here laying down ſuch a Plan of an Hoſpital as, I hope, will be found pretty perfect, and is calculated to hold about ſixty Beds, but may, on the ſame Principles, be varied, ſo as to contain from twenty to one hundred and twenty; within which Limits, I dare venture to ſay, all County Hoſpitals ought to be reſtricted.

SECT. II.

CHAP. III.

IN the third and laſt Part to be conſidered in the Conſtruction of Hoſpitals, viz. Their FURNITURE, we ought to be influenced



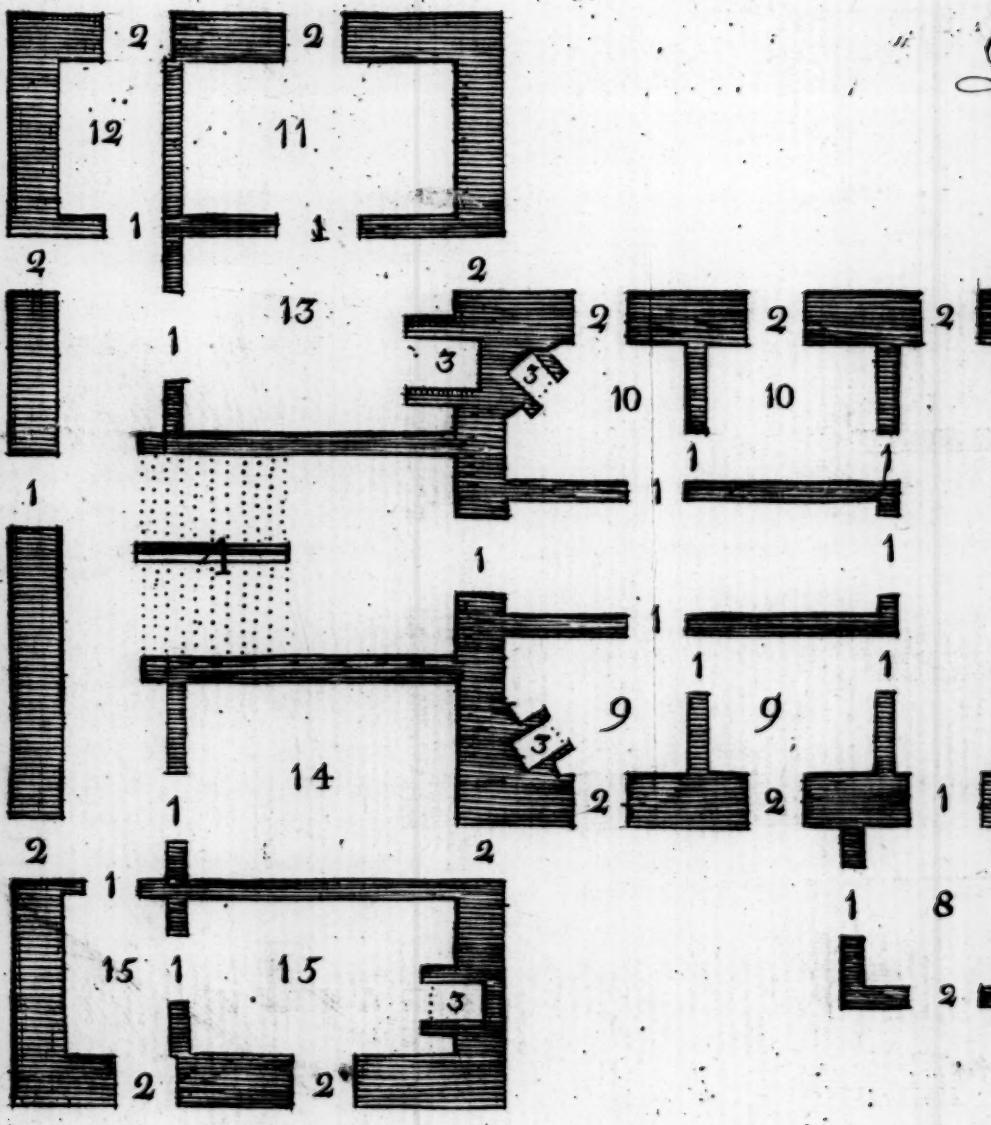


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Plate 1

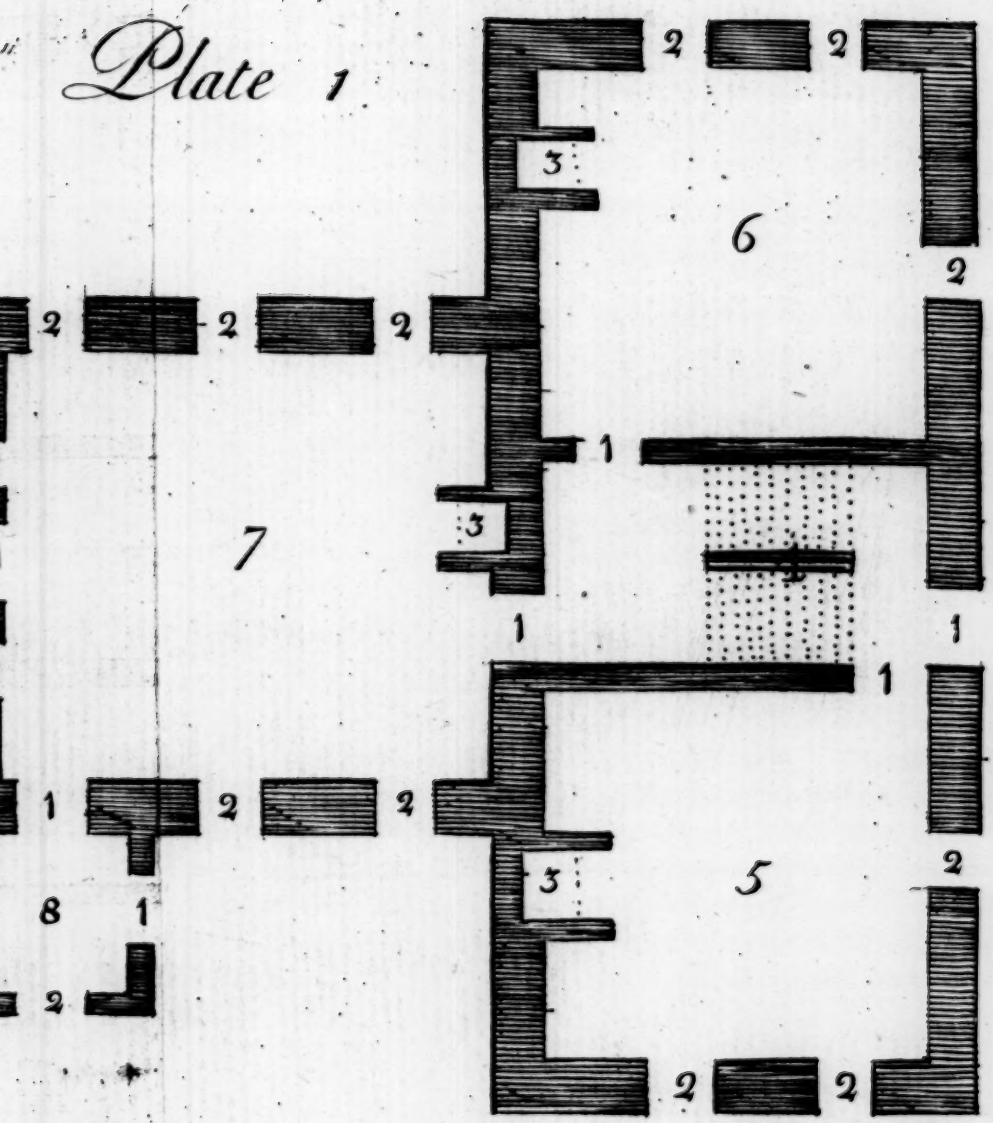
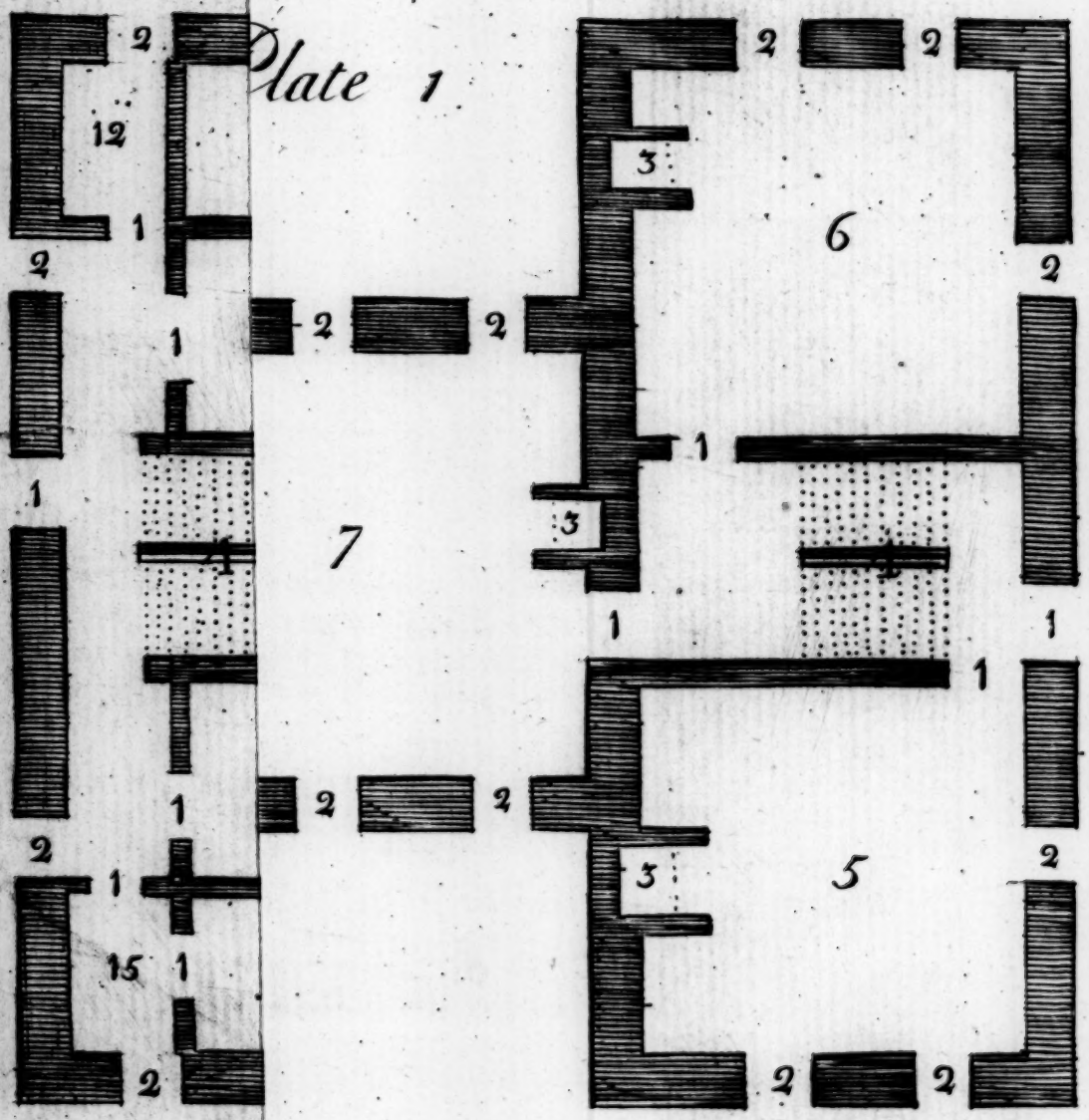


Plate 1



EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE I.

THE Ground Floor of an Hoſpital capable of containing ſixty Beds or upwards, with all neceſſary Conveniences in their proper Places.

Doors, — — — 1,1,1,
Windows, — — — 2,2,2,
Fire Places, — — — 3,3,3,
Stairs, — — — — 4,4,
Kitchen, off which a Larder may be taken, 5,
Apothecary's Shop, — — 6,
Admiſſion Hall, — — — 7,
Porch, — — — — 8,
Porter's Appartments, — — 9,9,
Directreſs's do. — — 10, 10,
Cold Bath, — — — 11,
Neceſſary Houſe, — — 12,
Waſh Room, — — — 13,
Steward's Appartment and Office, 15, 15,

Note, The third Floor is to differ from this, only in the following Particulars. 7, Is to be an Operation Room, with a Sky-light. 8, and 9,9, are to be one Room, for the Dead to lie in. And in the other Wing, at one End 11, and 12, are to be one Room and may be kept empty, that it may, if a contagious Diſeaſe ſhould happen, to break out in the Hoſpital,

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

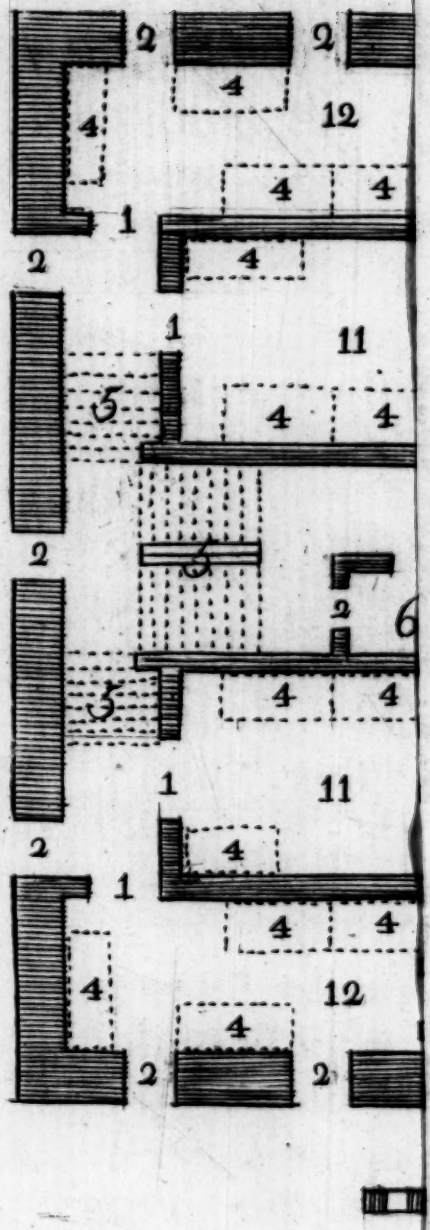
PLATE II.—The Second Floor.

DOORS, — — 1,1,1,
Windows, — — 2,2,2,
Fire Places, — — 3,3,3,
Beds, — — — 4,4,4,
Stairs, — — — 5,5,5,
A Cloſet for the Urinals, &c. — 6,
Manager's Room, — — 7,
Appartment for the Electrical Machine, 8,
Apothecaries Appartments, — 99,
Large Ward, containing 20 Beds, 10,
Two ſmall Wards containing 3 Beds each, } — 11,
Two do. which may contain 2, 3, or 4 Beds each. } — 12,

Hoſpital, be always ready to receive either the Clean, or the Infected, as either might be leaſt numerous.

The Frontiſpiece being laid down by the ſame Scale that theſe Plates were, anſwers for an Elevation of the Front of the Houſe.

As I have not laid down this Plan to ſhew my Taſte in Architecture, but to illuſtrate my Doctrine by a familiar Example, any little Impropriety in that antient Science will not be eſteemed an Objection to the Propriety of the Deſign; let not therefore the Execution be raſhly cenſured, until the Intention is impartially conſidered.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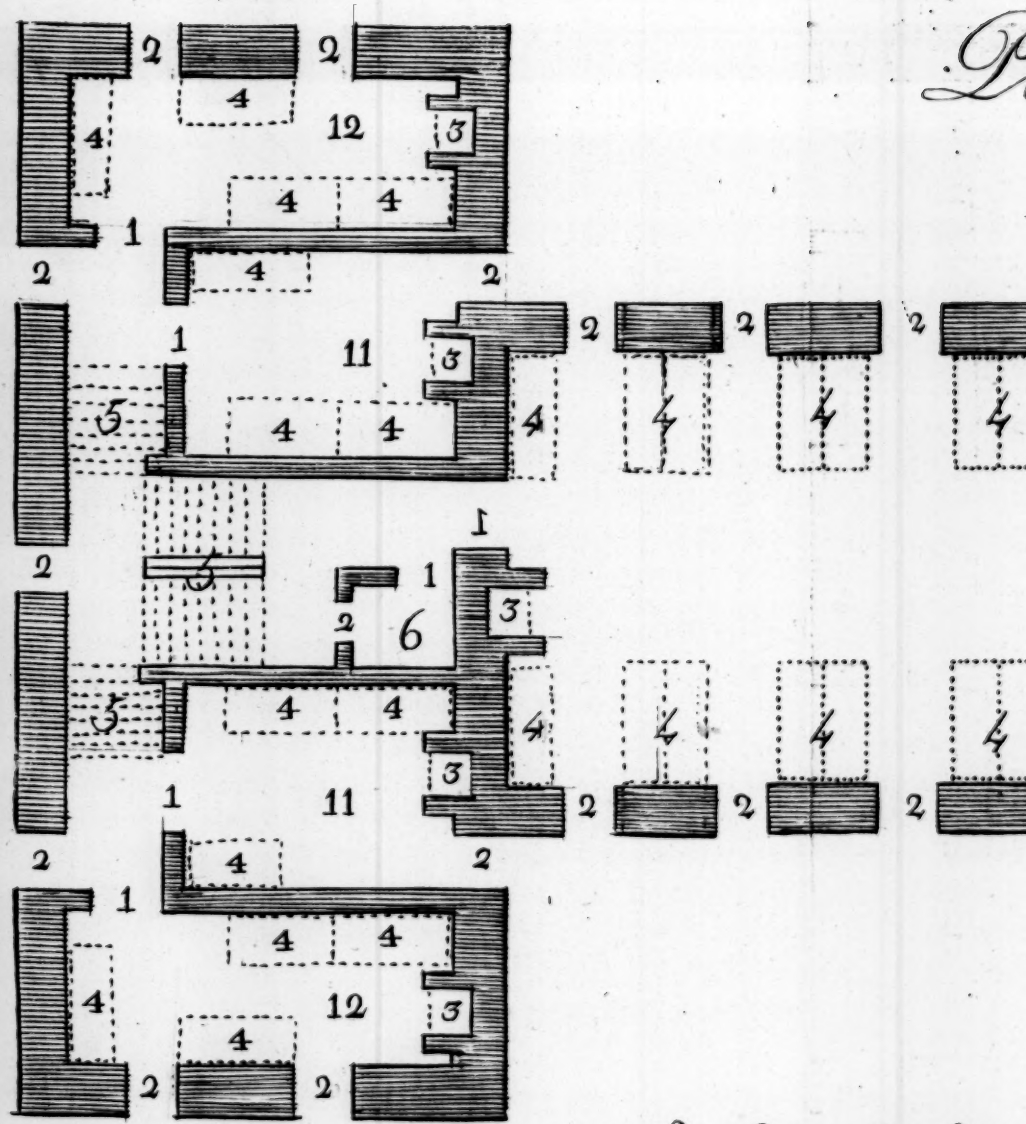

A Scale of Sixty

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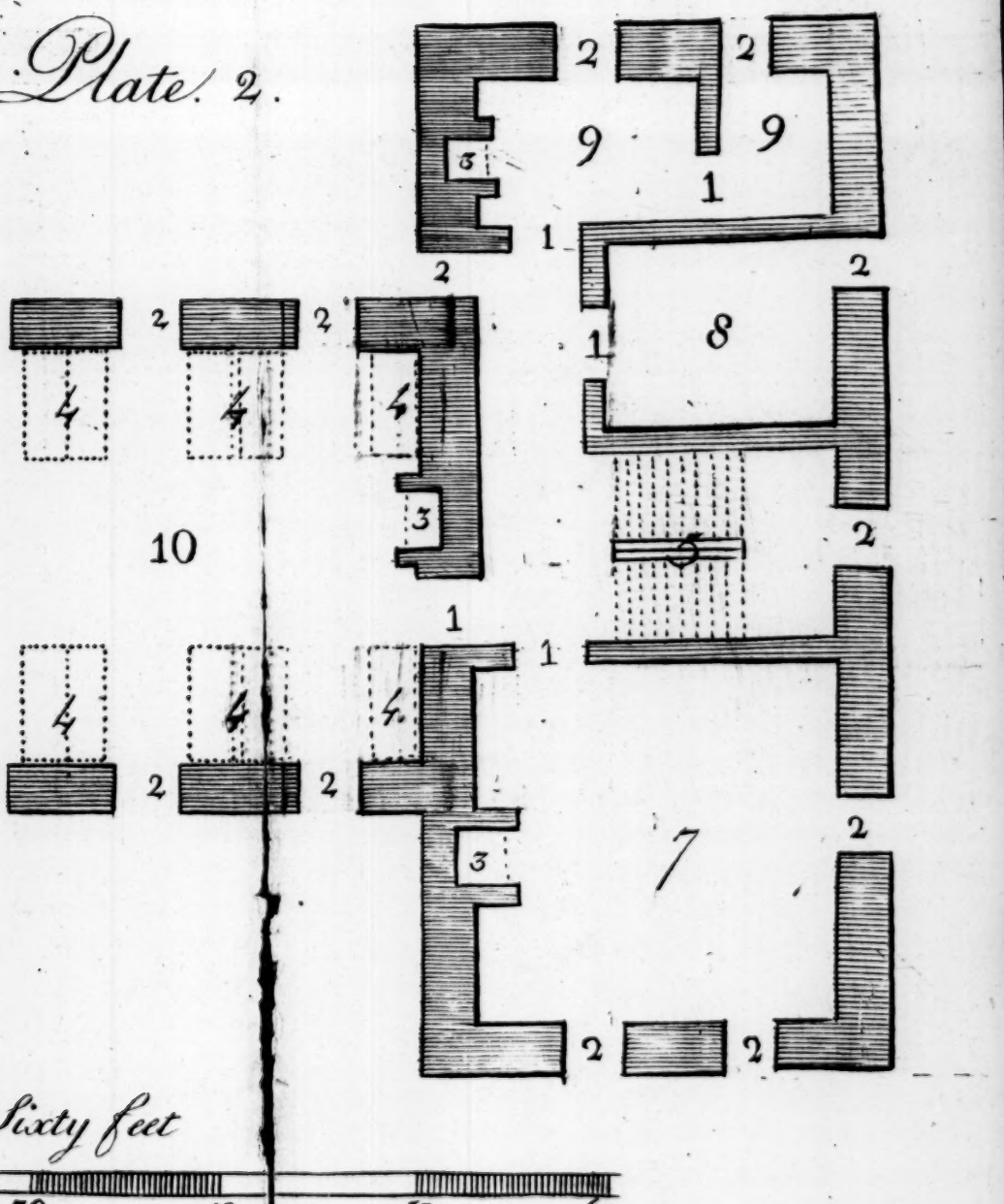
Plate. 2.



Sixty feet

30 40 50 60

ed ſolely by Oeconomy, and a Deſire of accommodating the Patients in the moſt proper Manner. I ſhall therefore have a juſt Regard to both; and, as any culinary, or common domeſtic Furniture, muſt be well enough known, I ſhall only treat of the Furniture, or internal Appurtenances, proper to the Hoſpitals, and which chiefly belong to the Wards.

I SHALL begin then with,

BEDSTEADS, which, if the Expence admitted, I would rather adviſe to be made of Iron than of Wood; as the latter favours of much the Collection of Filth, and the Generation of Inſects, eſpecially Bugs, which the former would effectually prevent, by affording them no fit Place to breed in. However, where the Funds may not admit this, the hardeſt Wood is preferable, which may alſo be painted with Verditer, or Verdigreaſe, to make it noxious to Vermin. They may be made about ſix Feet long, and two Feet and an half wide, ſo as to contain only one

Perſon, for it is certainly very improper to lay two or more in the ſame Bed, as is done in ſome French Hoſpitals; but, by placing two of theſe cloſe together, and having a thin broad Board run in a Groove betwixt them, we may have all the Advantages of two Beds, occupying only the Space of one ordinary one. The Board may be fixed, by a moveable iron Click, to one End of each Bed; ſo that if one Bed is required to be moved, the Board may be detached from it, and left adhering to the other.

WHEELS, or Caſters, ſhould be fixed under the Feet of the Beds, that they may be eaſily moved, when required; which muſt be often, not only to clean around, or beneath them, but for the Benefit of freſh Air to the Patients, or for Convenience of dreſſing their Sores, Wounds, &c. if they ſhould have the like.

SLINGS ſhould be hung from the Tops of the Beds, near their Heads, by a hold of which, the Patients may aſſiſt themſelves in ſitting

ſitting up, or in their other various movements.

LINEN CURTAINS are preferable to all others, as being the eaſieſt cleaned. Wainſcoat folding Doors, though often uſed, are very exceptionable; becauſe, when cloſed, they ſtifle the Patient, and when kept, even the leaſt open, ſo far from anſwering the Purpoſe for which they were intended, they perhaps become prejudicial, by directing a Current of Air upon him.

THE BEDS ought to be of well choſen dry Feathers; but as theſe are too expenſive, Matraſſes ſtuffed with Hair, or even dry freſh Straw Beds, are preferable to thoſe ſtuffed with Flocks, as thoſe cauſe a diſagreeable Heat, and favour much the Accumulation of Filth, with it's Conſequences, the Generation of Vermin. As to

SHEETS, and BLANCETS, I have nothing to ſay; but that they ſhould be kept clean, and in ſufficient Quantities, to ſhift the Beds as often as may be required.

FOLLOWING the Directions, which the celebrated Dr. Donald Monro gives in Military Hoſpitals, I would adviſe in ours, a Number of,

SHIRTS and SHIFTS to be always kept ready, for the Uſe of the Patients. For the Objects, which are generally recommended here, are often deſtitute of Cloaths fit to keep off the Inclemencies of the Weather, much more of the Means to afford them Comfort, or to ſupply Convenience; and how abſolutely neceſſary, cleanlineſs is, to the Cure of Diſeaſes, proper Judges alone can determine.

A NUMBER of large CLOAKS, for the above Reaſon, ſhould be kept in all Hoſpitals, for the Uſe of ſuch Patients as are able to get out of Bed, or to go out of Doors. EASY CHAIRS ſhould alſo be kept in the Wards, for the Uſe of ſuch Patients as are able to ſit out of Bed, and BED CHAIRS for ſuch as are able to ſit in Bed.

THE

THE URINALS, CHAIR, and BED PANS, and SPITTING POTS, ſhould be; the former of Pewter, and the latter of Tin, as theſe are eaſier kept clean than wooden, and leſs liable to be broken than earthen Veſſels.

THAT A THERMOMETER is a neceſſary Piece of Furniture in a Ward, will be denied by none, who know how much a Fever is increaſed by too much Heat, or how dangerous Viciſſitudes, in the Temperature of the Air of a Patient's Room, muſt be, in various Caſes, and how eaſy this may be regulated by that Inſtrument.

AN ELECTRICAL MACHINE, kept in a proper dry Apartment, ought to make a Part of the Furniture in every Hoſpital; as it's Uſe is ſufficiently eſtabliſhed in Medicine.

FIT Places for the various Kinds of BATHING, Warm and Cold; and for Sweating Chairs or Stoves, ſhould, for the above Reaſon, be always kept ready for Uſe in all Hoſpitals.

SECT. III.

CHAP. I.

THE ADMINISTRATION of Hoſpitals requires the greateſt Care, Fidelity, and Probity; for, if the ſmalleſt Wheel, in this Machine, but moves amiſs, it deſtroys the good Purpoſes of the Whole, or what is worſe, perverts them into bad: For Inſtance; ſuppoſe the Adminiſtration to be in every Point well directed; but, by Neglect, or Chance, a drunken, vicious Nurſe is choſen, may ſhe not ſoon, by wickedly neglecting to take juſt Care of of her Patients, or to adminiſter their Medicines as preſcribed, deſtroy many Lives much more valuable than her own? When ſo mean a Part of the Machine, being out of Order, can do ſo much Miſchief, what muſt be the Conſequence, if the main Spring of the Whole, the Phyſician ſhould be unfit for his Office?

In

In the Adminiſtration of Hoſpitals, therefore, there is the ſtrongeſt, and moſt indiſpenſible Neceſſity of a due Attention to the Qualifications and Capacities of every individual Miniſter, or agent in it, and the Whole ſhould he conducted with ſuch a noble, generous Concern and Spirit, as inſpired the Roman Veteran Legions to ſuch Deeds of Glory, viz. an Emulation of out-doing each other in the common Cauſe, and ſuch a reſolute Deſire of promoting it's Proſperity, as if the Succeſs of the Whole depended upon the ſingle Efforts of each Individual's Arm. So likewiſe ſhould Subordination, as the Baſis of Regularity, be juſtly attended to.

EVERY Individual therefore ſhould know the juſt Deference due to his Superior, and the juſt Authority and Charge he has over his Inferior; and the Whole, like all other Societies or Bodies, ſhould hang together like a Chain.

THE ADMINISTRATION of Hoſpitals is threefold;

OECONOMICAL,

MEDICAL.

DOMESTIC.

SECT. III.

CHAP II.

BY the OECONOMICAL ADMINISTRATION of Hoſpitals, I mean that Superintendance which all their Donators ſhould have over them. For Charity is mere Oſtentation unleſs proper Attention is paid to the Application of the Sums deſtined to Purpoſes of public Utility.

ALL Beneficent Donators to one Hoſpital ought therefore to have certain ſtated periodical Meetings, or Viſitations, at which they may inform themſelves how far their Charity is appropriated to it's juſt Uſes. As they then become

become a Society, they ſhould, for the Sake of Regularity and decent Order, elect a Preſident, whoſe Duty it ſhould be, to confine, within due Bounds, all Debates, to moderate Diſſentions, and prevent Diſorder, that in their Conſultations, the Sentiments of every Member may be diſtinctly collected. They ſhould appoint a Treaſurer, to whom all Donations are to be paid, and by whom, with the Approbation of the whole, theſe are to be ſo managed, as to turn out to the greateſt Advantage to the Hoſpitals.

THE Donators to Hoſpitals, being Men of Charity, muſt of courſe, by moral Inference, be Men of Probity; there is then no Danger of their miſapplying the Funds of the Hoſpitals, from Motives of Intereſt, whatever they may do from Ignorance; but, to prevent either, a ſelect Number, ſhould be choſen from amongſt them, not only of known, and approved Probity, but of extenſive Knowlege and Experience, as Managers, who ought to ſuperviſe the whole OEconomy of the Houſe, as to it's neceſſary Expences, it's Accounts,

counts, and the Duty of it's Servants, &c. They ſhould have frequent Meetings at the Hoſpital, that they ſhould render up a juſt and faithful Account of all the Tranſactions of the Hoſpital to the full Board of Donators, at their periodical Meetings. As the Donators ought not to be influenced in their Choice of Servants by Intereſt or Prejudice, ſo neither ought the Managers to be influenced in their Reports of them, by Favour, Pique, or Reſentment.

SECT. III.

CHAP. III.

ON the MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION of Hoſpitals well conducted depend all their good Effects; for, where is the Uſe of expenſive Edifices, ſupported by bountiful Donations, where is the Uſe of a careful and honeſt Admi-

Adminiſtration under Managers, or of the attentive Care and Diligence of Servants, if the Ignorance or Indolence of any Individual of this Department, renders him unfit to fullfil any the ſmalleſt Article of his Salutary Office? The Donators or Governors of Hoſpitals, therefore, cannot be too circumſpect in their Choice of Medical Servants, nor the Managers in their inſpection of their Conduct: But, as Governors, and Managers muſt be generally ignorant both of the Duties, and Abilities of the Medical Officers, I ſhall lay down a few Rules, by which, if they are guided, they will be leſs liable to Error.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ought to be conducted by

PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS } with their CLERKS.

APOTHECARIES AND NURSES.

THE

THE Utility of theſe different Members is ſo obvious, as to render any Attempt of pointing out their Neceſſity entirely ſuperfluous.

SECT. III.

CHAP. IV.

HAVING mentioned the Miniſters requiſite to fill the Medicial Department, I ſhall next ſhew the neceſſary QUALIFICTIONS of each, and their ſeparate DUTIES.

I SHALL begin then with the PHYSICIAN, as the moſt eminent Character.

HIS Qualifications are

NECESSARY, AND

USEFUL.

THE

THE NECESSARY are, not only a well founded Claſſical, but an Univerſity Education; where alone he can be ſufficiently inſtructed in the rational Principles of his Art. To this ſhould be joined a thorough Knowlege of the preſent Practice of Medicine; for, were I aſked whether Theory or Practice conſtitutes the beſt Phyſician, I ſhould (making but a ſmall Tranſpoſition,) with HORACE, reply.

-----" Ego nec Studium ſine divite," PRAXI;
" Nec vaga quid proſit video," EMPYRIA.
" alterius ſic
" Altera poſcit opem res, & conjurat amice.'

FROM this it is eaſibly deducible how inſufficient either Theory or Practice ſeparately are to conſtitute a Phyſician; wherefore he ſhould be well verſed in

ANATOMY,

CHEMISTRY,

PHARMACY,

MATERIA

MATERIA MEDICA,

PHYSIOLOGY,

PATHOLOGY, AND

THE PRACTICE OE PHYSIC.

By the laſt, I mean, not only the Practice as explained generally at Colleges, but what we call Experience; for to be able to know Diſeaſes, it is neceſſary to have before ſeen them, to be converſant with them, and to be acquainted with their different, natural and deceitful Appearances.

As a Teſtimony of all this, he ſhould have ſtudied at the beſt Colleges, and have procured the Sanction of ſome one of theſe at which he ſtudied, for the Exerciſe of his Salutary Art; which muſt be a more convincing Proof of his Abilities, than if by Proxy, or even in Perſon, he had been fatally dignified by a College, which perhaps never had been dignified

dignified by the Attendance of a Student, and many of which Kind only ſeem to have been inſtituted by Hypocritical Princes, as the moſt hidden, but ſevereſt Scourges, they could invent to chaſtize the Vices of Mankind. Nor are the Merits of thoſe Gentlemen, perhaps, much more to be credited, who, from the Regulation they may have acquired by a pretended Attendance on an eminent College, apply to it's neighbouring Siſter, and being admitted, ad eundem, are thus concealed; and at the Hazard of two or three fallacious Examinanions, get an Opportunity of Stealing, inſtead of a Degree, a Warrant for the Execution of their Fellow Creatures, without the Danger of Proſecution.

To prevent then the ſmalleſt Chance of ſuch Gentlemen's impoſing themſelves, as Phyſicians, on the Governours of Hoſpitals, I would make it a neceſſary Qualification, that every Perſon ſhould be admitted a Licentate by a College of Phyſicians, before he ſhould be intruſted with the weighty Charge of an Hoſpital.

As

As a Man, he ſhould have Integrity, Honeſty, Wiſdom, Prudence, Diligence, Faith, Probity, Sobriety, and Judgment. The Neceſſity of theſe, in all Characters, public, or private, is to be ſure abſolute; but, in a Phyſician, I may ſay, they are doubly ſo; for, if they are deficient in him, he has not only many Opportunities, in common to other Men, of doing Hurt, but alſo that, which his Profeſſion gives him, of doing the greateſt and moſt irreparable Injuries.

HAVING given a Sketch of the neceſſary Qualifications of a Phyſician, I ſhall attempt now ſhewing thoſe which muſt be very USEFUL, and moſt of which, no Phyſician ſhould want; for, as Celſus ſays, "Though they "do not conſtitute the Phyſician, yet they ren-"der him more fit for his Profeſſion."

THEY are a knowledge of Philoſophy, Logic, Mathematics, Phyſics, and Metaphyſics, the foreign Languages, in general, but the French in particular; as there are a Number

of

of uſeful phyſical Books in it, which have not yet been tranſlated either into the Latin, or our Mother Tongue. To theſe may be added, as highly uſeful, a Knowledge of Men and Things, a Mildneſs of Manners, Gravity of Deportment, awful Dignity of Appearance, ſweetened with Affability of Demeanor, and Humanity and Meekneſs of Diſpoſition; finally, a free open, chearful, hope-inſpiring Countenance, for as Celſus recommends: "A "prudent Phyſician is not, immediately, up- "on entering the Patient's Chamber, to ſeize "his Arm; he ſhould rather firſt ſit by him, "and with a cheerful Countenance, enquire "the State of his Health, and by familiar "Diſcourſe, diſſipate all fearful Apprehenſions, "before he feels the Pulſe."

SECT. III.

CHAP. V.

AS the Qualifications neceſſary to render a Phyſician complete are numerous, ſo are alſo the DUTIES of his Office.

LIKE the former they may be divided into

NECESSARY, and

USEFUL.

THE firſt, are, To ſee that every Thing relating to the Houſe, as to the Diſtribution of its Parts, as to its Furniture, and domeſtic Oeconomy, &c. is right.

HE is to admit and diſmiſs all Patients; only accepting of the Surgeon's Advice, when a chirurgical Cauſe or Diſeaſe occurs; and leaving it entirely to this Gentleman's Judgement, when the Caſe may proceed from any external Accident.

HE ought to be fully ſatisfied, that all his Inferiors, or ſubordinate Officers and Servants, are properly qualified for their reſpective Offices, and that they faithfully execute their ſeparate Duties in them.

HE

HE ought to ſee any Form or Forms of Diet, laid down by a College of Phyſicians, ſteadily adhered to; and the Medicines preſcribed by it's Diſpenſatory always kept ready by the Apothecary.

HE ſhould give ſuch Directions, as, by their Execution, guard the Patients from the different Inclemencies of the Seaſons.

HE ſhould viſit the Patients regularly at a certain Hour every Day, and, when it may be requiſite, oftener; and, as it is almoſt impoſſible for a Phyſician to remember the Hiſtory of every Patient's Caſe, in ſo great a Number, or the different Medicines he has preſcribed for different Caſes, he ſhould have carefully entered, in a Book for the Purpoſe, an Account of every Patient's Admiſſion, the Hiſtory and Symptoms, &c. of his Diſeaſe, as they occur, and the Remedies uſed. I would therefore adviſe Books, paged and ruled, with Alphabetical Index's for the Diſeaſes, and Patients Names, to be kept in all Hoſpitals. I

here give the within Specimen, which may anſwer tolerably well, and I fill it with a real Caſe, as it was taken, and treated in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, by one of the Profeſſors, who gave the uſual Courſe of Clinical Lectures, at that College, in the Year 1764-5, when I was a Pupil there. *(a)*.

LASTLY,

(a) I cannot, in Silence, paſs over this public Opportunity of recommending to my Countrymen the Advantages of the Univerſity of Edinburgh, in teaching Medicine, as well for the ſhining Abilities, and indefatigable Induſtry of its Profeſſors, as for the complete Diſtribution of all the Branches of Medicine into diſtinct Claſſes. Where, from Demonſtration, the Phyſician may learn to handle his Pen, and the Surgeon his Knife, to their Patient's greateſt Advantage. Where profound Speculation dictates true Practice, and this again confirms the Strength and Uſe of Reaſon. Where the lively Deſcription is painted, not only on the Mind's Eye, but on the Eye of Viſion, by the labouring Patients being ſtretched to view, and by Inveſtigation, Explanation, and Demonſtration of the Nature, Cauſes, and Cure of every kind of Malady, ſprung from Pandora's Box, in theſe mentioned Lectures, the only regular Courſe of the Kind any where given, and which cannot be too much praiſed, as by a ſhort Attendance on them, may be reaped all the Advantages of a long Experience.

LASTLY, it is the Phyſician's Duty to allow a ſufficient time for the Attendance of external Patients (as they are called) or ſuch as are fit Objects, and properly recommended; but for want of Room, or other Circumſtances, cannot be admitted into the Houſe. They, however, attend daily, as ordered, for Advice and Medicines.

(54) DONALD MC DONALD.

1765.

Month and Day.	Hiſtory and Symptoms, &c.	Regimen and Remedies.	Diſeaſe, Remarks, and Event.
Jan. 18.	Aged 17 Years, accuſtomed to Country Labour, and of a middle Habit of Body; has upon his Right Hip a broad Scab, which diſcharges a ſmall Quantity of Matter, and upon a nearer Inſpection appears to conſiſt of a Number of ſmaller run together; the Lips of theſe have a callous Appearance and are elevated in different Parts of the Sore above it's Level. There are two or three diſtinct One's of the ſame Kind round it's Edge: He has alſo a ſmall Blotch on the Inſide of his Thigh, which is almoſt healed. 'Tis about two Months ſince theſe Sores	Let him be put upon the full diet. ℞. Tart. Emet. gr. v. ſolve in aq. font. ℥x. capt. Cochl. j. mane & veſperi. Let the Sore on his Hip be dreſſed with Baſilic flav. ℥j. Ung. Ægypt. ℥j.	Cutaneous Foulneſs.

DONALD MC DONALD.

Month and Days	Hiſtory and Symptoms, &c.	Regimen and Remedies.	Diſeaſe, Remarks, and Event
Jan.	broke out; but he had one entirely ſimilar about ſix years ago, on the other Hip, which continued two Years, and then went away without Medicines. Apetite good; Belly natural; he has been bled, and got two Doſes of Decoctum Tamarindorum; his Sores are dreſſed with Baſilicon.		
19	Sweated very profuſely laſt Night and to Day, without any ſickneſs at Stomach, form his Medicine.	Continuatur ſolutio Tart. Emet. ſed capt. Cochl. ij. pro doſi omni mane & veſperi.	
20	Sweated well; ſore on his Hip eaſier; diſcharge from it leſs copious; he has ſome appearance of Itch on this Hands.*	Cont. r Solut. ad Cochl. iij. hora Somni & ij. mane. Applicetur ung. Sulph. manibus.	

* A Continuation of the Cate is unneceſſary; and I have only inſerted it, with a deſign of ſhewing by an Example from an Hoſpital, which may be juſtly eſteemed a Pattern, that the Treatment of Sores ſtrictly belongs to the Province of a Phyſician.

SECT.

SECT. III.

CHAP. VI.

I NEXT proceed to the Phyſician's USEFUL Duties. It may here be objected to my Diviſion, that every Duty is neceſſary. But, it is certainly the Duty of every Man, in a public Station, to fill it as completely as his Abilities will allow him, though it is not abſolutely neceſſary that he ſhould do no more in it than Law requires.

NOTWITHSTANDING the many valuable improvements made, of late, in Literature, and Science in general; yet, as many Deficiencies are ſtill lamented, amongſt thoſe, we ſeverely feel the want of a perfect Hiſtory of the Atmoſphere; and tho' it has been univerſally allowed, that Experiments, and Obſervations upon it are the ſureſt and ſpeedieſt Means of obtaining a more thorough Knowledge of it; yet, as theſe are attended with much Trouble, and ſome Expence, few have had public Spirit enough to devote their Labour, or Money, to the Uſe of the Community. I would then make it a very uſeful Duty.

Duty, (if not a neceſſary one) for every Phyſician to make as many, and as accurate Obſervations, on the Air, as poſſible. His Attendance being before neceſſary, and the Apparatus being at the public Expence, remove the above Objections. The Method I leave to himſelf, or more properly to a College of Phyſicians, and the different Methods recommended by Doctors Jurin, Huxham, and others, ought to be tried, that it may be proved, how they agree.

ANOTHER uſeful Duty is, to fill up that Column in the Caſe Book, which is intended for Remarks, with ſuch as occur to him at the Time of entering the Caſe.

He ſhould, when a Patient dies, have his Body opened, and examined, if the Caſe requires it, and if his Frieads will permit it: and have it entered, in a Part of the Caſe Book, entitled,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE DISSECTIONS,

every preternatural Appearance that may occur in the Courſe of his Inſpection.

A CARE-

A CAREFUL Obſervance of theſe Duties will certainly recompenſe the Phyſician for his Labour, by the many Advantages, they muſt afford him in his future Practice; beſides, the very great Benefit they muſt be of to the Public, if either he himſelf commits them to it, or if they are collected, reviſed, and jointly publiſhed, in a Manner to be hereafter mentioned.

SECT. III.

CHAP. VII.

THE SURGEON holds the next Place in this Department, and who, as the ſecond uſeful Perſon in it, ought to be in every Reſpect very fully qualified, for his Office. Nor can Governors he too cautious in their Choice, though the Managers have an Advantage, in being able to inſpect his Conduct more narrowly than that of the Phyſician; but a Diſadvantage, which preponderates this, is,

is, that a Man may be very dexterous at the Performance of an Operation, though Injudicious as to its Propriety. An Inſtance of this happened lately at a certain Hoſpital, where a Patient ran away in the Night, to prevent the Surgeon next Day from amputating his Leg, a Member, which he demonſtrated, knew its Office, much better than the Surgeon did his, and which was ſoon after perfectly cured. I ſhall, however, as ſhortly as poſſible, give a Sketch of his QUALIFICATIONS, and DUTY, and leave Governors, and Managers to judge for themſelves.

A CLASSICAL Education is neceſſary in this as well as in all other liberal Arts or Sciences; and a College Education to explain it's Theories, as all Arts or Sciences have reaſonable Rules, by which their beſt Mode of Operation is determined. But, as a complete Knowledge of this, like moſt other Arts, depends upon Practice; a certain Apprenticeſhip ſhould have been ſerved to it, that a ſufficient Dexterity may be acquired in it.

I THEREFORE lay down, that to qualify a Surgeon for ſo important a Truſt, as that of an Hoſpital, he ſhould have firſt well underſtood the Claſſics; he ſhould have next ſerved a lawful Apprenticeſhip to a regular bred Surgeon; he ſhould have, afterwards, or in that Time, been perfected in a Knowledge of

ANATOMY, By which I mean thoſe Demonſtrations, and Lectures, now given at the beſt Anatomical Theatres; and under which I comprehend all Operations in Surgery, with their proper Bandages, and a ſuccinct Account of the Animal Oeconomy.

OF PHARMACY, That he may know the Compoſition, and Preparation of Plaiſters, topical Applications, &c.

OF CHEMISTRY, That he may know the Nature, and Compoſition of Cauſtics, &c. and

OF The LAWS OF MECHANICS. That he may underſtand the Ratio of the Reduction of Fractures, Fluxations, &c.

As a Proof of all this, he ſhould have been admitted a Licentiate of the beſt Academy or Society in this Kingdom.

As a Man, he ſhould be poſſeſſed of thoſe Qualities, that, I ſaid, were requiſite in a Phyſician, as ſuch. To which, add undaunted Firmneſs of Reſolution, capable of making him ſteadily to perſevere in his Patient's Good, though to his unſpeakable Pain and Torture; to be ſtaggered neither by Tears, Sighs, or Groans, the Sight of Blood, or even Death's pale Image.

THE DUTIES of the Surgeon, are

To attend his Patients regularly, at leaſt once every Day, but oftener, if requiſite.

To take upon him the ſole Treatment of all Caſes, truly Chirugical.

To perform all neceſſary Operations, and

To dreſs the Sores of all Phyſical Patients, that may be afflicted with ſuch.

He ſhould conſult cordially with the Phyſician, concerning the Propriety of all Operations, where the Complaints giving Occaſion to them, may proceed from internal Cauſes.

He ſhould enter all his Patient's Caſes in a Book for that Purpoſe, and ſimilar to the Phyſician's; by a Peruſal of which alone, the Conduct, and Abilities of either can be juſtly aſcertained by Judges. For, Examinations, even the moſt ſtrict, are liable to Fallacy, and although the Abilities may be unexceptionable, the Conduct may be very defective or erronious.

He ſhould always have a proper Regard to the Equipment of his Surgery: See that his Inſtruments, Bandages, and other chirurgical Apparatus, are in good Order, and ready for Uſe.

Finally, he is bound, not only, faithfully to perform every Tittle of his own Duty, but to be careful that his Inferiors alſo execute theirs.

SECT.

SECT. III.

CHAP VIII.

THE Neceſſity of CLERKS, to the Phyſicians, and Surgeons, muſt certainly appear, if the Uſes of the Caſe-books, before mentioned, are allowed. As it is requiſite that they ſhould be able to read Receipts, before they can write them, they ſhould be Perſons, who have been taught, or are, at the Time, learning ſome one of the Branches of Phyſic. But, as the Funds of ordinary Hoſpitals cannot be ſuppoſed to ſupport a great Number of People, I would combine theirs, and the Apothecary's Office.

THEIR DUTY is, to keep the above Caſe-books. To ſet down every Thing as immediately dictated to them by the Phyſicians or Surgeons, without either Elongations, Abreviations, or other Alterations.

THE

THE APOTHECARIES ſhould be Men well ſkilled in Medicines, as well Galanic and Chemical, as Simple; with all the Methods of, and Apparatus uſed in preparing, compounding, or decompounding them, &c.

HE ſhould have received ſuch a Claſſical Education, as can enable him to read the contracted Characters of a Recipe in good Latin, and to explain any Directions given at the Bottom of it, without the Help of a Dictionary. For how ſhameful is it, to ſee a Man pretend to practiſe any Branch of a liberal Art, without knowing more Latin than a Cow Herd? Or, to whom the beſt wrote Recipe of any Phyſician, is no more than a Piece of Hieroglyphics, which he only underſtands as the ancient Prieſts did theirs, without knowing the Uſe of a Letter.

HE ſhould have ſerved a ſufficient Apprenticeſhip to a regular bred Apothecary, and have attended a Courſe of Materia Medica at a College, that he may be the better Judge,

not

not only of the Virtues, but of the ſenſible Qualities, Characteriſtic Marks, and real Soundneſs of Medicines.

HE ſhould be a Man, not only, of approved Probity, but of remarkable Circumſpection, the moſt careful Attention, and unwearied Diligence, in his Buſineſs. For, if there is the ſmalleſt Error made, in handling the numerous Catalogue of poiſonous Drugs, among which he is conſtantly converſant, and betwixt many of which there is the ſtrongeſt Similarity, it may produce the moſt deſtructive Conſequences.

IT his DUTY, to keep the Apothecary's Shop always well furniſhed, and properly aſſorted, with freſh Medicines; and retain theſe in their ſimple Forms, or have them prepared, in the Manner directed by whatever Diſpenſatory his Phyſician or College of Phyſicians chuſe.

HE ſhould receive the Caſe Books from the Phyſician's or Surgeon's Clerk, as ſoon as they

have viſited their Patients; and, according to theſe, ſhould he ſee every Patient ſerved, either in Meat, Drink, Medicines, or Cloaths, &c. That he may have it in his Power to ſee all theſe the more faithfully executed, either by Night, or by Day he ſhould reſide conſtantly in the Houſe; and, from this Opportunity of Inſpection, he ſhould have a particular Regard to the Duty of the Nurſes, and report their Conduct, or any extraordinary Occurrences in the Hoſpital, to the Phyſician.

I have been very ſhort on this important Head, becauſe an excellent Pamphlet, entitled Pharmacomaſtix, or the Office, Uſe, and Abuſe of Apothecaries explained, has put it out of my Power to ſay any Thing new upon it.

SECT

SECT. III.

CHAP IX.

THE NURSES, I have introdced into this Department of the Adminiſtration, as Aſſiſtants to it's proper Conſtituents; and, tho' they occupy but a mean Station in it, yet it is one of very conſiderable Importance in the complete Eſtabliſhment of the Inſtitution. A proper regard ſhould therefore be paid to the Appointment of Perſons in this, as well as any of the other Offices.

SIX NURSES may be ſufficient for ſuch an Hoſpital, as I have laid down the Plan of, that is, one to every ten Patients. This, it is certain, will hold good in large Wards; but, to ten Patients diſperſed through ſmall Rooms, I doubt one Nurſe will ſcarſely afford ſufficient Attendance.

They ſhould be truſty, careful Servants, whoſe Faith can prevent their abuſing the Confidence repoſed in them; and whoſe Hu-

manity can keep them from trifling with the Lives of their Fellow Creatures.

THEY ſhould have a conſiderable Experince in the Care of Sick, before they are admitted into Hoſpitals, as it muſt be impoſſible for them, both to attend a Number of Patients, and learn how at the ſame Time.

THEIR DUTY, ſhortly, is to attend the Sick, ſerve and aſſiſt them in every Thing neceſſary, to be conſtantly with them when awake, watch them when aſleep, and report every Circumſtance of Conſequence concerning them, to the Phyſician or Surgeon, when they make their daily Viſits. But, above all Things, they ought to pay a moſt ſtrict and attentive Obſervance to the Cleanlineſs and Regularity of their Patients, as on theſe depends a very great Part of the Cure.

FINALLY, as the Apothecaries cannot be ſuppoſed to be preſent at the ſwallowing of every Doſe of Medicine that Patients ſhould take; the Nurſes ſhould ſee this moſt punctually executed.

SECT.

SECT. III.

CHAP X.

THE DOMESTIC ADMINISTRATION of Hoſpitals, though ſimple, and perhaps ſimilar to Family OEconomy in general, is not, however, to be neglected. To make it perfect, it ſhould be conducted by

A DIRECTRESS,

STEWARD,

HOUSE SERVANTS, AND

CHAPLAIN.

I ſhall be as ſhort as poſſible on the Qualifications and Duty of theſe, as they muſt be ſo obvious, that Governors or Managers cannot be thought ignorant of them.

THE DIRECTRESS ſhould be, in all Reſpects, what we call a notable Houſe-keeper. Her Sobriety, Prudence, Temperance, and Chaſtity ſhould have ſo entirely diveſted her of

of their Oppoſites, that nothing can be feared either from them alone, or, as they may be variouſly directed by a Woman's other Paſſions. In ſhort, her Morals, Conduct, and Demeanor ſhould not only command Obedience from her Inferiors, but merit Reſpect, and Confidence from her Superiors.

HER Duty as ſhortly is,

To manage all the Family Affairs; carry the Keys of the different Stores; receive into, and give out of them, the different Utenſils, Proviſions, &c. as requiſite; ſee the Victuals properly cooked, and the Patients ſerved with them, when, and in the Manner directed by the Phyſician or Surgeon.

To HIRE, or diſmiſs the Servants; know their Qualifications, and direct them in all their Duties, ſeeing theſe executed with a punctual Exactneſs, eſpecially in keeping the Houſe and Patients clean, and in obſerving the ſtricteſt Obedience to Regularity and Order.

THE

THE STEWARD ſhould be a Man whoſe Experience, in Country Matters or Markets, can prevent his being impoſed upon, either from his own Ignorance, or the ſelfiſh Deſigns of others. His Knowledge of Letters ſhould, at leaſt, reach ſo far as to enable him to keep the Accounts of the Houſe regularly, and his Sobriety and Diligence ſhould make him pay a ſtrict Attention to his Office.

HIS DUTY is,

To lay in, or buy all Kinds of Stores, Proviſions, neceſſary Utenſils, &c. wanted in the Houſe; keep an Account of all it's Expences, and ſettle from Time to Time, with the Treaſurer.

THE HOUSE SERVANTS neceſſary for ſuch an one a I have laid down the Plan of, a COOKE, and his ASSISTANT or SCULLION, a WASHER, a CHAMBER-MAID, and PORTER. But in larger Houſes a proportionably greater Number of theſe will be neceſſary.

LET

LET it ſuffice to ſay of them, that their Qualifications ſhould render them fit to fill their reſpective Places, and that their Aſſiduity, Care, and Diligence ſhould be ſo great, as to render them worthy of being continued in them. All which not only the Directreſs, but the Phyſician, Surgeon, Apothecary, and Managers ſhould be well convinced of.

As to the CHAPLAIN, I have little to ſay, as it is out of my Sphere, to treat of his Qualifications, and his Duty is but ſmall.

HE ſhould read Prayers, in his Chapel, once every Day, and preach a good Sermon in it, once or twice, every Week, to ſuch as are able to come there. He ſhould exhort and pray with all, as becometh his Duty, but with a Chriſtian Mildneſs, taking a ſpecial Care, never to diſturb or diſcompoſe by too ſevere Denunciations, the Minds of the Sick, already perhaps much out of Order, and which muſt be attended with the worſt Conſequences.

FINIS.

AN

APPENDIX

TO AN

ESSAY ON HOSPITALS;

WHEREIN,

The preſent Scheme, for eſtabliſhing public COUNTY HOSPITALS in IRELAND, is impartially conſidered.

By EDWARD FOSTER. M. D.

Sunt delicta tamen, quibus ignoviſſe velimus:
Nam neque chorda ſonum reddit, quem vult manus ac mens;
Poſcentique gravem perſœpe remittit acutum:
Nec ſemper feriet quodcunque minabitur arcus.

Hor. de art. Poet.

DUBLIN:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

BY W. G. JONES, IN SUFFOLK-STREET,

M,DCC,LXVIII.

APPENDIX.

HAVING laid down a few plain Directions, for the moſt proper Situation, Conſtruction, and Adminiſtration of COUNTRY HOSPITALS; I ſhould think myſelf very deficient in my Duty, if I did not alſo take ſome Notice of the preſent Scheme for eſtabliſhing public County Hoſpitals in this Kingdom.

The obſcurity in which medical Matters have ever been involved, renders all men, except thoſe who have made them their particular Study, more ignorant of them, than of any other Branch of Science.

This, and the Impoſſibility of attaining Perfection in our firſt Eſſays, will ſufficiently defend the Wiſdom of our moſt benevolent Legiſlature,

from the leaſt petulant Cenſure, for any little Imperfections in it's Laws, relative to the eſtabliſhment of public Hoſpitals, and it's Goodneſs, will, I hope, approve ſuch lawful Freedoms, as I may be obliged to take, in demonſtrating theſe Imperfections; as an Amendment cannot be expected, until the Error is made known.

THE ingenuous Candor, of a very reſpectable Claſs of men, will, I hope, alſo exempt me from their Cenſure, when they behold with Impartiality, that my Intentions tend to promote the Honour of the Healing Art, by endeavouring to ſet in a juſt light, the Conduct of ſuch of it's Members, as deſpiſing their own proper Profeſſion, meanly attempt the Practice, and invade the Province of another, and conſequently diſgrace both.

WITHOUT further Preamble, and ſuppoſing the Advantages of the proper Eſtabliſhment of public County Hoſpitals equally evident to all; I ſhall ſhortly lay down,

1ſt, THE

1ſt, THE IMPERFECTIONS of the preſent Eſtabliſhment;

2dly, SHEW the DISADVANTAGES attending theſe;

3dly, OFFER an eaſy Method of Redreſs; and,

4thly, TOUCH briefly the Advantages of this Redreſs.

THE chief Imperfections of the preſent Scheme, may be reduced to two Heads;

1ſt, THE want of ſufficient Funds; and,

2dly, AN ill regulated or Mal-Adminiſtration.

THE evident and moſt manifeſt Exiſtence of the firſt Imperfection, ſcarce leaves the ſmalleſt Room for the Neceſſity of Proofs. I ſhall, how-

from the leaſt petulant Cenſure, for any little Imperfections in it's Laws, relative to the eſtabliſhment of public Hoſpitals, and it's Goodneſs, will, I hope, approve ſuch lawful Freedoms, as I may be obliged to take, in demonſtrating theſe Imperfections; as an Amendment cannot be expected, until the Error is made known.

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ever, adduce one, which muſt put the Caſe beyond Doubt.

Tho' I have given the Plan of an Hoſpital, which would be much cheaper, in Proportion to the Number of Beds it contains, than one holding twenty; yet I chuſe the latter, as the ſmalleſt I think worthy of a Parliamentary Conſideration. I ſhall ſhortly ſhew the Funds neceſſary to erect and ſupport it; and then, by a Compariſon with the preſent Proviſion for our Hoſpitals, prove this great Deficiency.

By the beſt Enquiry and Calculation, I have been able to make, I find, that a Houſe, capable of containing twenty Beds, with other neceſſary Conveniences, may be built, and furniſhed for the Sum of £700. The other neceſſary Expences to render it compleat, may be ſtated as follows.

To

To the Maintainance of twenty Patients, at 5d. per Day each	£ 152 00 —
To Medicines for do. —	60 —
To the Salary of a Phyſician	100 —
To——do. of a Surgeon,	*100 —
To——do. of an Apothecary and Clerk combined,	40 —
To——do. of a Directreſs	20 —
To——do. of a Steward	20 —
To——do. of Porter, Houſe-maid, Cook, and two Nurſes, at £5 each,	25 —
To the Rent of an Acre of Land	3 —
Total,	£ 520 —

* As the Legiſlature has been pleaſed to think a Surgeon's Merit entitles him to this Sum, I have ſet it down, tho' I muſt confeſs, I think 60*l.* very ſufficient, in the Proportion of 100*l.* to a Phyſician.

To ballance this, there has been an Order given upon the Treaſury for —	£ 100 —
And a Liberty of raiſing off the County, —	100 —
Total,	£ 200 —
which being ſubtracted from the Sum neceſſary, there remain	£ 320 —

For the raiſing which, no Method has been either directed, or hinted, but Subſcription: And that this is a very imperfect one, letFacts declare: For I may venture to ſay, that, if in any County, *cæteris paribus*, the reſt being made equal to it, a Houſe is properly erected, and furniſhed out of the public Subſcription Purſe, very little will remain in it for other Uſes.

From this, the very great Deficiency of the preſent Funds, is evident; as however, it may be objected, that this Deficiency is aggravated, by my Allowances for Perſons and Purpoſes, that would be uſeleſs to the Eſtabliſhment, an Anſwer will be found, under the ſecond Branch of this Head.

The Diſadvantages attending this primary fundamental Imperfection, are as obvious as the Exiſtence of their Cauſe. They muſt, in ſhort, prevent almoſt every Advantage that would otherwiſe ariſe from this moſt benevolent Inſtitution, if properly ſupported; and ſink the whole Charity into a mere,—"Vox & præterea ni-"hil."—I may ſay, a deceitful, empty Sound.

The Adminiſtration, I am ſorry to find erroneous, in all it's Parts. In the firſt, or OEconomical, tho' every Thing honourable, juſt and charitable, might reaſonably be expected from the numerous Men of Merit and Probity, who direct it, yet with Freedom, I muſt ſay it, their Inex-

Inexperience in Medical Matters, has perverted their good Purpoſes, and from their Ignorance in theſe, flow moſt, if not all the ſubſequent Evils.

Tho', by Act of Parliament a ſtanding Committee is allowed, which might anſwer the Purpoſes of a Board of Managers, for regulating and inſpecting the Adminiſtrations under them, yet this uſeful Department is utterly neglected; by which Means the medical and domeſtic Adminiſtrations may be conducted according to the different Taſtes or Humours of it's different Members; and every Thing be turned into Anarchy and Confuſion; or if, to avoid this, the ſole Power is given to the Surgeon, all the Ills of abſolute Deſpotiſm, are to be dreaded.

The ſecond, or medical Adminiſtration, is ſo univerſally the groſſeſt of Errors, that to me it is inconceivable, how Men of Senſe could poſſibly fall into it. For it has not been thought enough, to put it entirely into the Hands of Perſons, utterly unqualified for ſuch an important Truſt, but, even the Means of aſcertaining theſe Gentlemen's

tlemen's Abilities, in their own Profeſſion, are inadequate to the Ends. I ſhall therefore ſhew,

1ſt, THAT, from the preſent Law, Men who have but bad Titles to the bare Name of Surgeons, may be admitted to the Care of County Hoſpitals; and,

2dly, THAT, let their Titles be ever ſo juſt, or their Abilities as Surgeons, ever ſo great, they are ſtill unequal to the Office.

THE Law very judiciouſly directs, that every Candidate for the Surgency of a County Hoſpital, ſhould have ſerved at leaſt a five Years Apprenticeſhip, to a regular bred Surgeon, tho' heretofore the Laws wiſely enjoined an Apprenticeſhip of ſeven Years, to the meaneſt Handicraft Trades, as well as to Surgery. Had the Law obſerved an equal Caution, in enjoining the Candidate Surgeon to prove his Qualifications, by any effectual Means, this Point would have been leſs exceptionable than it is. But alas, how imperfect are the Ways of Man! The Utility of the prior Stricture is wholly loſt in the open

open Paſſage that is left to avoid it. For, an old Indenture, of a five Years Apprenticeſhip, tho' perhaps three have not been ſerved, and to a country Apothecary, who, with his whole Fraternity, aſſume the Name of regular bred Surgeons, or a Certificate from a Country Gentleman, are allowed ſufficient Proofs of this important Point.

But, ſuppoſe that Country Apothecaries are, what they pleaſe to call themſelves, and that Indentures and Certificates are as true as may be imagined; or, in other words that a Man hath ſerved five, ſeven, or ſeventeen Years, if you will, to the moſt regular bred Surgeon, does it qualify him, to exerciſe a Profeſſion, founded on Principles of abſtruſe Doctrine, and ſupported not only by Theories, but Facts, a Knowledge of which is only to be acquired at their proper Schools, from Demonſtration and Study.

As to an Examination, by Men of undoubted Abilities, and approved Probity, I do not ſuppoſe it is intended for Improvement; but, how

it

it is paſſed by the Examinands, tho' their Knowledge may be as ſhallow, as their Opportunities have been confined, can readily be accounted for, without the leaſt impertinent Inſinuation againſt the Abilities and Probity, or ill-natured Reflection upon the Conduct of the Examinators.

THESE Gentlemen were appointed to their Office, without any Reſtrictions, as to their Conduct. The legiſlative Power thinking it unneceſſary, allowed them no Conſideration for their Trouble, and ſcarce I believe, requeſted them to undergo it. Being liable therefore to no Penalty, being bound neither by the Ties of Law or Conſcience, would it not be inconſiſtent with their Humanity, and incompatible with their Intereſt, to reject as unqualified in Abilities, an Examinand, who with ſtrong Recommendations, brought them ample Certificates of his being qualified by Law, of his ſucceſsful Practice in the Country, where he intended to be, or already had been declared a Candidate, whoſe Fortune and whoſe Family it would ruin, whoſe Hopes it would blaſt,

and

and whoſe certain Diſhonour and Diſgrace t would effect, did he not ſucceed? Theſe Motives, are, I ſay, very ſufficient for Examinators, not altogether deſtitute of Humanity, to ſcreen themſelves, from a harſh ſcrutiny into a Man's real Knowledge, behind the very reaſonable Pretexts, of a thorough Conviction of his Abilities, from his ſpecious Certificates, from his many Opportunities of Study at Colleges, and of Practice Abroad and at Home; tho' from his Defect in Speech, or his want of Oratory to explain himſelf, from his Modeſty or Confuſion, &c. he is incapable of ſhining at an Examination.

FROM what has been ſaid, upon this Point, it needs not ſurpriſe us, to ſee a Man, who has ſerved a few Years or perhaps not an Hour's Apprenticeſhip to a Country Apothecary; who has had as few Opportunities for Improvement Abroad, as at Home; who has never ſeen three capital Operations in Surgery in his Life; or perhaps who has ſtudied privately, a few Months before his Examination, under an Anatomiſt, to acquire a few technical Terms, or a Knowledge of

of the bare Names of Operations, Bandages, and Inſtruments, &c. now ſtrutting in borrowed Plumes, in Conſequence of his paſſing his Examination with Honour.

WHAT Right, Candidates for the Surgency of County Hoſpitals, have to the Title of Surgeons, merely in Conſequence of their being qualified by Law, is thus proved to be as defective, as I ſhall next demonſtrate, the Right of any, even the beſt Surgeons, to be to the entire medical Adminiſtration of Hoſpitals.

IN the Days of our Forefathers, we learn that all the Branches of Phyſic were practiſed in common by the ſame Hands. As Science however improved, juſt Diſtinctions between its different Parts, were firſt obſerved. General Diviſions with minuter Subdiviſions enſued; and it was then found, that if the ſame Time was employed in the Study of two Branches, which was only ſufficient for the thorough Knowledge of one, an Imperfection in both muſt be the Conſequence. As it happened to Science in general,

ſo

ſo did it to Phyſic in particular. It proved the Root of many Branches; with this Connexion to them, that, if Perfection in it was aſpired to, a general Knowledge of the whole was requiſite; but, if a Knowledge of a ſingle Branch was aimed at, it might be learned by itſelf. This gave and maintained to Phyſic, a Superiority over the Branches, and neceſſarily ſecured a Dependance of the Branches upon the Mother-ſtock, as their Origin and Sourſe, their Parent and Nurſe. But any Perſon who has had the leaſt Opportunities and Abilities for Obſervation, or who takes the ſlighteſt View of the Characters of a Phyſician, *(a)* and Surgeon, *(b)* muſt ſee the very great Diſtinction there is in their Offices. The one is taught to know the animal frame in its perfect State, the various Laws of its Oeconomy, the Functions of its Organs &c. from that he is led to know its imperfect or diſeas'd State, the natural Cauſes and Appearances of this, and by an Attention to the Virtues and Properties of the different Productions

(a) See Eſſay on Hoſpitals, Sect. III. Chap. IV. and V.

(b) See Ibid. Sect. III. Chap. VII.

tions of Nature or Art, and their Effects upon a ſound or diſeaſed Frame, is taught to know the means of reſtoring Health, and of preſerving it. The other, on the contrary, was only firſt made Uſe of to take the Trouble of any operative Duties off the Phyſician's Hands, ſuch as dreſſing Sores, &c. and as it was one of the meaner Offices, none would accept it but low Mechanics, ſuch as Barbers, who were prefered to others on Account of their being a little more dexterous in their Performance. It's turning out lucrative however ſoon induced People of a better Rank to make it their Profeſſion. Theſe Gentlemen, rightly underſtanding the Connexion it had with the ancient and noble Art of Healing, found it neceſſary to apply to ſome of the firſt Principles of the latter, ſuch as Anatomy, Phyſiology, &c. in order to arrive at any Degree of Perfection in their Sphere. They were then intruſted with the Performance of all Operations; applied themſelves to a Study of their proper Theories; invented Inſtruments; improved the different Methods of operating; and in ſhort, became ſole Maſters of their pecu-

liar Department, tho' ſtill ſubject to the Superintendance of Phyſic, whoſe Profeſſors have written moſt learnedly upon Surgery as well as Pharmacy. Now to ſuch of the Surgeons, I do appeal, as have got Education enough to know it; whether the Treatment of any Diſeaſe is, by the ſmalleſt Right, except that of Uſurpation, and Impoſition on the ignorant, their Province. I ſay Education enough to know it. For too many of them, being bound Apprentices young, have either been prevented from receiving a proper claſſical Knowledge, or have forgot it from Diſuſe; and are therefore incapable of being convinced, by a Peruſal of the Works of the Ancients, of that Dependance, they really have upon their Mother-art.

I foreſee that an Objection will be ſtarted to what I have ſaid on this Head; to wit, that Surgeons muſt be allowed fit to have the ſole Care of Hoſpitals, where none but Chirurgical Caſes are admitted, that the preſent County Hoſpitals were only intended as ſuch, and to eſtabliſh the Reſidence of regular-bred Surgeons

Surgeons in the different Counties. To this, I reply. 1ſt, THAT it is very cruel to exclude a miſerable Wretch from the Benefit of ſo noble a Charity, merely becauſe his Grievance is of a peculiar Nature.

2dly, THAT, even in a City, where by the numerous Accidents that happen, there might be Patients enough for ſuch an Hoſpital, a Surgeon alone ought not to be entruſted with the whole Care of it; for it is well known how frequently Fevers enſue Operations, Fractures, Luxations, &c. and how fit a Surgeon is to have the Care of a Fever, I have before ſhewn.

3dly, IT is impoſſible that there can be a ſufficient number of chirurgical Patients to fill an Hoſpital, within ſuch a Circumference of Country, as will admit their being ſent to it. There are in it but very few Caſes from Accidents, as theſe happen more in Proportion to the Space occupied, by a certain Number of Inhabitants, than in Proportion to that num-

ber. Thus, ſixty thouſand People pent up with all their neceſſary Appurtenances, in a City, will afford ten Times the Number of Accidents, that the ſame Number of People diſperſed as thinly as the Country is inhabited, will afford. And except theſe Accidents, I do inſiſt upon it, no other Caſes belong to a Surgeon alone. For, as to Operations neceſſary from Diſeaſes, it is impoſſible for a Surgeon, ignorant of the Nature, Cauſe, or Cure of Diſeaſes, to judge when they ſhould be performed; or if there is any Chance of a Cure without them. The ſame may be ſaid of the Treatment of Sores, Ulcers, Caries, &c. All theſe, depending upon internal Cauſes, or Chronic Diſeaſes, without Exception, belong to the Province of a Phyſician. Upon the whole, then, in the Country, there will be at leaſt ten Patients, fit Objects for a public Hoſpital, whoſe Caſes ſhall be ſtrictly phyſical, for one, whoſe Caſe ſhall be ſolely Chirurgical. Upon the Verity of this Fact, do I reſt the Determination of the whole Cauſe I have eſpouſed; and let any Perſon, a proper Judge, of the

the Difference betwixt a Phyſical and a Chirurgical Caſe, by the ſtricteſt Obſervation, and Enquiry, in a country Place, make a Computation, and if he does not find it, nearly as I have ſaid, I will with Pleaſure, not only reſign my ſmall Pretenſions to Phyſic, and to common Reaſon, but to the ſtronger Teſtimony of my Senſes.

That, the Eſtabliſhment of the Reſidence of regular bred Surgeons, in the different Counties of this Kingdom, was well deſigned, and might be of real Uſe, I ſhall readily allow: but how the Eſtabliſhment of Surgeons alone in the Care of County Hoſpitals, has, and will turn out a real Diſadvantage, I ſhall next prove to a Demonſtration.

When the protecting Arm of our moſt merciful Legiſlature was ſtretched forth to ſhield the Diſtreſſed, and provide an Aſylum for the Diſeaſed; the Deſire of ſpeedily obtaining a Meaſure ſo worthy of itſelf, I doubt hurried its Conſideration, a litttle beyond the Bounds of Poli-

cy, and Prudence. Otherwiſe, I am certain, it would never have conſtituted, by a *fiat*, Phyſicians of Men, ſcarcely entitled to the Name of Surgeons; and otherwiſe, I am certain, it would have paid a greater Attention to the wiſe Counſel of an honourable Individual; the only one, I may ſay, without Derogation from the reſt, whoſe Opportunities could enable him to be a perfect Maſter of that, and whoſe Abilities, and Experience, made him equally Maſter of every Subject. But to proceed,

THE Diſadvantages, I ſay, attending the preſent Scheme, for eſtabliſhing Hoſpitals; as labouring under this eſſential Error, of having their medical Adminiſtration ſubjected to Surgeons alone, are inferiour to the whole Advantages of the Inſtitution.

FIRST then, from the Want of proper Judges, to direct the medical Adminiſtration, we ſee that few or none of the Hoſpitals, already eſtabliſhed, are either ſituated, conſtructed, furniſhed or managed as they ſhould be. In general,

neral, Houſes have been rented for Hoſpitals, which are as fit for the Purpoſes, as Newgate for a Palace. Their Situation amidſt the Naſtineſs, and Filth of the dirty Suburbs of a Country-Town; their Conſtruction, into low confined mean ill-air'd Apartments; their Furniture perhaps to be equaled only in Badneſs, by the Impropriety of its Diſtribution; with an ill-judged, if any, regular Form of Diet, and bad Attendance, all render it more than probable, that the Conſtitutions of the poor Wretches compelled by dire Neceſſity, to venture into ſuch Hoſpitals, receive more Detriment, than their Diſeaſes can Relief, from the Hands of the beſt Surgeon.

2dly, I HAVE before ſhewn the Diſtinction betwixt Phyſic and Surgery, and the Dependance of the latter upon the former. By this Step, however, both theſe are evidently trampled under Foot. Nay, a Superiority is even given to Surgery; for I muſt again repeat, and do maintain, that it conſtitutes a Man a Phyſician, more effectually than any Deploma can, to inſtall him by Law, in the Office of one; and that the chief Care of a Country Hoſpital not only belongs to, but is one of the moſt important Truſts in his

Office. This therefore gives Surgeons the Authority of practiſing Phyſic, in its firſt Rank, and very higheſt Degree, in Preference to thoſe, who have the only juſt Right, and have made it their Study to know how, to practiſe it.* Did what I advance need further Proofs to ſupport it, I could eaſily produce them; but the only additional one, I think it my Duty to mention, is, that the Surgeons, by their indiſcriminately practiſing Phyſic as well as Surgery, ſeem perfectly ſenſible of the Superiority talked of. I muſt alſo beg Leave to quote a Line or two from an Advertiſement, publiſh'd by one of theſe Gentlemen, in the Dublin Journal, of Auguſt, 1767. After ſetting forth his Deſign of eſtabliſhing

* Leaſt the Illiberal, the Severe, or the Cenſorious, ſhould imbibe, from this Sentence, or any other Arguments uſed in the Appendix, the leaſt Suſpicion of my being ſelfiſh in my Views, narrow in my Notions, corrupted in my Principles, or biaſſed in my Doctrine, I muſt inform them, what many living Witneſſes can atteſt, I have ever profeſſed as my Sentiments, with Regard to the Confinement of the different Branches of Phyſic, within their proper Spheres. I have always declared it my Opinion, that, when the Advice of a Surgeon or Apothecary is prefered to that of a Phyſician, if they can give a better, they are certainly the moſt worthy of being employed, but if a worſe, the Patient ſuffers very ſufficiently for his Error.

bliſhing an Anatomical School at the Place of his Abode, he ſays, " To thoſe " (meaning his Pupils) " Mr. ———, conſidering that in order to " to make them good Surgeons, it is abſolutely " neceſſary to give them a Knowledge in Phy- " ſic; therefore intends explaining Boerhaave's " Aphoriſms, and reading to them a Courſe of " Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Phy- " ſic."———

By this it plainly appears, that ſome of them, not only, think themſelves very capable of practiſing, but of teaching Phyſic. Tho, in my poor Opinion, the Caſe is exactly ſimilar to that of a pettifogging Attorney, who would impertinently pretend practiſing Law at the Bar, in preſence of its proper Profeſſors, or who would audaciouſly preſume dictating it to a Lord Chancellor. The witty as well as judicious Poet, therefore could not ſay of a Grievance in his Art, more juſtly than I can of this, with the Alteration of a ſingle Word.

" Ludere

" Ludere qui neſcit, campeſtribus abſtinet armis;
" Indoctuſque pilæ, diſcive, trochive, quieſcit;
" Ne ſpiſſæ riſum tollant impune coronæ:
" Qui neſcit "MORBIS," tamen audet fingere.
" Quid ni?
" Liber & Ingenuus, præſertim cenſus equeſtrem
" Summam nummorum, vitioque remotus ab omni."*

" Men in all other arts, from ſhame and fear
" Juſtly to raiſe, the croud's loud ſcorning ſneer,
" Forbear eſſaying, where their knowledge fails;
" But each aſſuming fop pretends he HEALS.
" What then?—He of this mean pretext avails.
" His birth and friends are good, no wealth he lacks
" He's free from vice, then who dares ſay he quacks?"

I ſhall only adviſe him to obſerve the ſame Author's kind Advice.

" Tu nihil invita dices facieſve Minerva."
In proper office uſe your hands, our quill
Let drop; for God's command is not to kill.

3dly,

* Q. Horat. Flac. de Art. Poet. Verſ. 379.

3dly, From Authority and Neceſſity, Phyſical Caſes muſt be admitted into the Hoſpitals, in greater Numbers than the Chirurgical; and to ſupport their Dignity, Surgeons to be ſure will not heſitate to aver, that they can treat a Scrophulus, a Scurvy, a White Swelling, a Leproſy, &c. as well as the beſt Phyſicians. From which, I ſhan't be the leaſt ſurpriſed to ſee all old Sores and Ulcers, dried up by the promiſcuous Uſe of Corroſive Sublimate; incipient Dropſies cured by tapping; nor to ſee a Courſe of Mercurial Salivation once more become a Specific for all Chronic Diſeaſes; with much of the ancient and truely Dunlevite or Caſſidean Practice revived.*

4thly, Decipimur Specie recti.——
Nothing is ſo apt to deceive as the Appearance of reaſon. Now there never was ſo abſurd a Practice, or ſo ridiculous a Theory, in Phyſic, as could not be reconciled to the crude Notions of

* The fame of the ancient Duplevies and Caffidys of Ireland, in the Practice of Phyſic was ſo great that their Deſcendants became Doctors by Inſtinct. which I muſt confeſs was full as good a Title to the Name as many of our Hoſpital Surgeons can boaſt.

of the Vulgar. They ſwallow as a Miracle, what is above their Comprehenſion, and adore as an Æſculapius, the Man, who performs the above wonderous Cures, and, to explain them, profoundly thunders out a Number of long rough ſounding Words, as little underſtood by himſelf, as by his Auditors.

5thly, The Hoſpital Practice, affording the the Surgeons ſufficient Opportunities to make their ſurpriſing Talents conſpicuous, they will ſoon become the Diſtributers of Medicines, and Death, inſtead of Relief, thro' the whole adjacent Countries. Nature however, is a broad-ſhouldered Dame. Many of the Burthens of others has ſhe patiently born, and many has ſhe ſtill to labour under. The whole Weight of every unfortunate Caſe will reſt upon her Back; while the ſame Ignorance which raiſed the Character, will yet ſupport it, and the Aid of the moſt ſkilful in the Medical Profeſſion, be thought unworthy of a Call, after the ſagacious Sentence of an Hoſpital Surgeon is paſſed.

6thly,

6thly, THO' the new Quackeries of theſe Surgeons firſt appeared like Miracles, yet their unſupported Baſes, tottering under their ill proportioned Loads, will at length ruſh into Deſtruction, and lie buried beneath as vaſt Heaps of popular Contempt, as ever they were ſupported by vulgar Applauſe. But tho' the Puniſhment is juſt, a Redreſs then will be impoſſible; for the People never having known the juſt Diſtinction betwixt Phyſic and Surgery, had conceived of the latter, as the moſt eminent Branch, from its being allowed the Superiority by Law. They will therefore naturally ſtill think it very unneceſſary to apply to a Phyſician's Aid, whoſe Abilities were long ſince thought inferiour to thoſe of their then much adored Surgeon, and will impute to the Imperfection of the Art, what was only the groſs Blunder of its ignorant Pretender.

7thly, THUS will a Stop be put to the Cultivation of that moſt ancient, moſt noble, honourable and uſeful Art of Healing, at leaſt in the Countries of this Kingdom.

8thly,

8thly, THUS will the innocent Victim be ſent, like a Calf, to the Butcher's Shambles, inſtead of an Hoſpital.

9thly, THUS will the honeſt Countryman either puniſh himſelf, by following theſe Quack's Directions, and piouſly think it to proceed from a juſtly incenſed divine Vengeance, or, learning from Experience, will ſay it is better for him to die by the Hand of God than that of the Doctor, and ſo neglecting all Advice, fall a Sacrifice to a Diſeaſe, perhaps eaſily curable.

LASTLY, Thus will the Land be thined, the King loſe his valuable Subjects, the rich Man his worthy Tenants, the poor Man his Health, the greateſt Endearment of Life; and the Public loſe their chief Supporters, the worthieſt Members perhaps of Society, the Labourers, and the Handicraftſmen.

FROM theſe few Facts, and their juſt Deductions, without further Enlargements upon, or Inferences

Inferences from them; it plainly appears, what the preſent Inſtitution will end in, if not ſpeedily put upon a better Footing; and how prepoſterous it is, to give Surgeons alone the chief Care of County Hoſpitals.

THE French have long, do ſtill, and perhaps while they are a People, will ſuffer dearly for their Weakneſs in having once permitted Surgery to get the Aſcendance over Phyſic; For, in the Words of the learned Doctor Brockleſby— "As no Nation of this Age have pretended to "a ſuperior Knowledge in Surgery as much as "the French, ſo are they known to be generally "the moſt ignorant and worſt Phyſicians in Eu-"rope, ever ſince their Surgeons came to im-"poſe and obtrude their Pretences, in the "Knowledge of Anatomy, upon the World, as "the Perfection of Medical Science."*

* See Page 88 of a Book entitled, OEconomical and Medical Obſervations, in two Parts, from the Year 1758, to 1763 incluſive. Tending to the Improvement of Military Hoſpitals, and to the Cure of Camp Diſeaſes incident to Soldiers. As there are many Facts, and very ingenious candid Arguments, in the firſt Part of this Treatiſe, which would ſufficiently prove the very Subject I am upon, but are too prolix to be quoted; I beg Leave to refer my Reader to them, particularly to Pages 35, 36, 37, and 38, with much of the preceding and ſucceeding Matter.

THE only remaining Imperfection, in this, or any other Part of the Inſtitution, I ſhall mention, is the Want of Apothecaries to the Hoſpitals. I muſt confeſs it was a Propriety, whether from Accident or Purpoſe I know not, to allow no Apothecaries, where there were no Phyſicians to preſcribe their Medicines; for theſe are moſt dangerous Weapons in the Hands of Fools, but an outweighing Diſadvantage ſoon occurs. The Surgeons are moſt of them permitted to furniſh themſelves with Medicines; and, what is worſe, receive ſo poor a Pittance for the Purpoſe, that, were they even capable of rightly uſing good Medicines, they cannot afford them. This will therefore induce a Doſe of Jalop to be given inſtead of Rhubarb, where perhaps the former is Poiſon, with many other groſs Errors, of the ſame Nature, ſuch as a few of the cheapeſt, and moſt active of each Claſs of Medicines, being alone uſed, in all Caſes, where more ſafe, efficacious, but dearer Medicines are requiſite.

THE Importance of that Part of my Subject now finiſhed will excuſe my *Verboſity* upon it;

and

and the more eaſily I hope, as I have not really thrown out half the Arguments, my little Experience, and Attention to the Inſtitution, ſince its Commencement, have enabled me to collect. Thoſe in Power, however, will receive, from what has been offered, a ſufficient Conviction of the Reality of the Imperfections, I have ſtated. And in Conſequence, I doubt not, will either find a Redreſs proportioned, to the Grievance, or adopt that which I ſhall offer. Tho' they can boaſt of ſuperiour Abilities, proper Hints nevertheleſs, may ſave them the Trouble of much Study, I ſhall therefore, according to Promiſe, next, briefly lay down a Method of Redreſs; and ſhew its Advantages.

The firſt Imperfection was the Want of ſufficient Funds. The Redreſs is obvious. An Augmentation is abſolutely neceſſary. But, as I have all along avoided giving my Opinion out of my own proper Sphere, I ſhall not here lay down any Scheme for the raiſing of ſuch Augmentation. It is enough to have proved, that, without it, what has been already allowed will turn out

the Source of many real Calamities to the Country, and to ſay, that, by ſufficiently augmenting the Funds, all the Advantages, that were at firſt wiſhed for from the Inſtitution, will receive their immediate Exiſtence.

The ſecond Imperfection was an Ill-regulated or Mal-Adminiſtration. To put this upon a proper Footing, it is neceſſary to introduce the following Amendments.

1ſt, The ſtanding Committee, for inſpecting the whole Affairs of the Hoſpitals, according to Act of Parliament, ſhould be kept in full Force and Power; by which Means the two inferiour Parts of the Adminiſtration would be carried on in a conſtant Courſe of Regularity and Order; the Officers or Members of them being ſo liable to the Cenſure of the Governours, if they ſhould miſbehave or neglect their Duties.

2dly, The Medical Adminiſtration ſhould be put under the Direction of thoſe, who alone know how to conduct it. A Phyſician, a Surgeon,

on, and an Apothecary, of the Characters formerly laid down, ſhould be appointed to each Hoſpital. The additional Expence would be trifling, and the Advantages would be innumerable. From this Redreſs, we ſhould ſee Hoſpitals, ſo judiciouſly erected, furniſhed, and managed, that the Patients would not miſtake their Apartments, for the Dungeons of a Goal; their Attendants, for ſurly Turnkeys; nor the Treatment of their Diſeaſes, for the Random Quackery of Farriers. On the contrary, the Cleanneſs of the Wards, the Regularity of the Attendance they would receive, and the tender judicious and ſucceſsful Care taken of their Indiſpoſitions, would convince them of the Bleſſings they enjoyed; and would ſo much recommend the Utility of the Charity to their ſuffering Fellows, that they would with the moſt earneſt ſollicitations entreat Admiſſion into Hoſpitals; whereas, thoſe who are now perſuaded to venture into them, do it with the greateſt Dread and Reluctance; and I believe ſome Country Hoſpitals of a Year's Standing, might be to Day found, which have not yet received five Patients,

and others, where more Patients ran away, or were turned out uncured, than received the leaſt Alleviation of their Maladies.

From this Redreſs then, beſides the Advantages to the Patients in the Hoſpitals, the People in general would be convinced of the Utility of the Art of Healing: They would ſee the Diſtinction of it's ſeveral Branches; they would know when to employ the Surgeon, and when the Phyſician; they would ſee the abſurdity of Quackery demonſtrated, which has always been the Bane, not only of rational Practice, but of the Lives of Millions of uſeful Subjects; they would flouriſh in vigorous Health, by which their Numbers would be increaſed with the Riches of the Country, and the Value of Lands. What a Difference this, from the melancholy Gloom that muſt overſpread the Face of a Country, ſacraficed to all the Miſeries, incident to the Domination of Quackery? And how eaſily may it be effected?

A THIRD Redreſs, to render the Inſtitution compleat, is as follows.

A PHYSICIAN and a Surgeon ſhould be appointed, as Inſpecting Phyſician and Surgeon Generals, to the County Hoſpitals of Ireland. They ſhould be Men of known and undoubted Abilities, of approved Probity, indefatigable, active, and induſtrious: They ſhould together viſit every County Hoſpital in the Kingdom, once or oftener, every Year. They ſhould then narrowly inſpect the Conduct of every Individual, and ſee that nothing, relating to the Charity, in any reſpect, is ſuffered to remain amiſs.

THE Advantages attending this Redreſs, may be conſidered in two Views.

1, IF the former Redreſſes recommended are not adopted, this will in ſome degree, anſwer their Purpoſes; for, by theſe Gentlemen's Care and Advice, the Hoſpitals may be eſtabliſhed upon a tolerable Footing, in Compariſon to what they

they are. The Phyſician General is to regulate every thing concerning the Houſe, as to it's Conſtruction, and Adminiſtration, &c. whilſt the Surgeon General, by inſpecting the Books, and Practice of the Surgeons, can aſcertain their Abilities, and Attention to their Charges.

2dly, Suppoſing that the Redreſſes before recommended are adopted, this will ſtill add greater Advantages; for, by theſe Gentlemen's viſiting the Hoſpitals, and joining their Advice to the opinion of the Hoſpital Phyſician and Surgeon, it is ſcarce poſſible, that either Ignorance or negligence can in any Shape pervert the good Purpoſes of the Charity. By their collecting the Books of the different Phyſicians and Surgeons, by narrowly inſpecting their Practice, and by ſubmitting it to the Cenſure of a College of Phyſicians, when it may ſeem to them erroneous, no man, unqualified for his Office, can obtrude themſelves upon the unſkilled Good-nature of Governours, without an Aſſurance of their being ſoon detected, and of having their Ignorance ſufficiently puniſhed, by an ignominious Diſmiſſion.

By

By their culling out, reviſing, and publiſhing, the numerous, new, and extraordinary Caſes, in both profeſſions, which muſt occur in ſuch extenſive Practice, with proper Remarks or Comments upon them, and alſo publiſhing the uſeful Obſervations and Experiments, I have recommended to be made upon the Air, Medicine in general will be much enriched, with new Sources of Improvement; a Channel of Communication will be opened to it's Practice thro' this Kingdom, which may thus at length equal, if not ſurpaſs any of it's Neighbours, in the Cultivation, and Improvement of that antient Art, ſo little known, and ſo much abuſed in the remoter Parts of the Country, by ignorant, aſſuming Quacks.

FINIS.